



Broadstone Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	307119
Inspection date	16 September 2005
Inspector	Zoe Smith
Setting Address	Heaton Chapel Community Centre, Broadstone Hall Road South, Heaton Chapel, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 5JD
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Registered person	Sandra Ames
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Sessional care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Broadstone Playgroup is based at Heaton Chapel Community Centre in the Heaton Chapel district of Stockport. Sessional day care is provided during school term times for up to 16 children aged from 2 years and 6 months to 5 years, there are currently 22 children on roll. The group is open every weekday from 09:15 to 11:45. The group supports children with special educational needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The registered person is also the manager, she has a recognised childcare qualification and is assisted by a team of staff of whom more than half are qualified.

All staff work on a part-time basis.

The premises comprise of a large hall, kitchen and toilet facilities. The hall is divided into different types of play and activity areas. Children are able to participate in physical and outdoor play activities in the enclosed outdoor play area.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy participating in a wide range of physical play activities such as climbing, playing on wheeled toys and music and movement. They are developing good control and co-ordination over their bodies. Children exert lots of energy as they ride bicycles and sit and ride toys with great enthusiasm round the playground and through the puddles. Outdoor play provides lots of fresh air and exercise and is helping children begin to understand the value of adopting a healthy lifestyle.

The premises are warm and spotlessly clean. Highly effective hygiene practices and routines are implemented by staff. Children are starting to learn about the importance of good hygiene and cleanliness. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating.

Children enjoy a varied and nutritious diet that includes fresh fruit and a savoury snack. This encourages them to choose healthy options. Dietary requirements are discussed and agreed with parents. Children's preferences are appropriately catered for. They receive drinks and food in sufficient quantities to meet their needs. Discussions and stories positively reinforce the benefits of healthy eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and well maintained environment. Potential risks have been identified and effective safety precautions put in place to minimise them. Regular fire drills take place. This ensures staff and children are well practiced and proficient in evacuation procedures. Children adhere to simple rules and routines that help keep them safe, for example helping tidy up. Activities about safety issues, such as crossing the road are used to help children learn how to keep themselves safe.

Children choose what to play with from a broad range of safe, good quality resources which are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Vigilant supervision by staff ensures children are well protected and kept safe at all times. Utmost priority is given to the children's safety and well-being by staff. They have up to date knowledge of first aid practice and a clear understanding of child protection procedures and their responsibility to implement them.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at the group, where they are mostly happy and settled in the calm and friendly environment. Children love stories, joining in action rhymes and songs, during a session they will often look at book on their own or in a small group. This is helping them to listen, respond to language and learn new words. Children have time to relax as well as to be active. All children spend their time purposefully. Children particularly enjoy imaginative play, making drinks for each other and their dolls in the home corner and dressing up in hats.

At snack time children are served by staff, they do not help to serve or clear away. Children start to talk over each other and are asked to sit quietly by staff. Therefore opportunities to be independent and develop new social and self help skills are not always promoted.

Children explore the wide variety of age appropriate activities, toys and equipment, which are designed to be enjoyable and stimulate their interest and development. Play and activities are planned using a thematic approach. Toys and equipment are rotated regularly to ensure the children's interest is maintained. Children are provided with one creative activity per session, which is often adult led. Opportunities for children to freely express themselves and develop their creativity by using a range of sensory materials such as sand, water, dough and glue are limited.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a satisfactory range of resources that provide positive images, these include books and imaginative toys. They participate in some activities that help them learn about their own and the religious and cultural beliefs of others. Children made roosters at Chinese New Year to celebrate the year of the rooster. This is helping them to be respectful of and to understand others.

All children are welcomed and play a full part in the group. Staff effectively organise the group to meet the individual and special needs of children. They work in partnership with parents, who are kept well informed about their child's day, progress and any issues. This ensures continuity of care for children between their home and the group.

Staff skilfully support children to share and take turns. Children are starting to learn the boundaries that are in place and adhere to them. They respond to meaningful praise from staff and behave well. Children play happily alongside each other; they are starting to form first friendships and to enjoy playing with other children

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The environment is stimulating and well organised. Children receive lots of support, encouragement and attention from staff. This promotes their confidence, so they eagerly explore their surroundings and join in activities. Children's individual needs are met and their welfare promoted, through good practice, policies and procedures. Their care is agreed with parents, who are kept well informed about the service and their child's progress. Most required records and documentation are in place and contain sufficient detail. Attendance records do not specify children's hours of attendance and the group do not have a lost child policy. Children are cared for in a safe environment, where they are making progress in all areas of development. Overall, the provision meets the needs of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group agreed to develop the child protection statement. The statement has been developed to include the responsibilities of staff and procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made by a staff member. This ensures the children's safety and well-being is protected at all times.

They agreed to devise a system for planning the range of activities. A thematic approach for the planning of some play and activities has been introduced. This ensures children are provided with a wide range of activities to stimulate their interest and development.

They agreed to provide a range of activities and resources to promote equality of opportunity. The range of equipment available has been increased and some activities are provided to help children learn about the religious and cultural beliefs of others. This is helping children to understand the wider world they live in.

The group also agreed to formalise procedures to be followed if a parent fails to collect a child or a child is lost. They now have an uncollected child policy. This ensures staff know what to do if a child is not collected and the well-being of the child takes priority. The group has not formalised lost child procedures and therefore staff may not know what to do if a child is lost.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- develop the range of creative and messy activities for younger children (such as those in the Birth to three matters framework)
- develop snack time to maximise opportunities for children to become independent and to develop social and self help skills
- develop procedures to follow in the event of a child going missing and maintain a record of children's hours attendance.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk