

Preston Park Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 130762 |
| Inspection date | 19 October 2007 |
| Inspector | Chris Mackinnon |

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| Setting Address | St Marys Church Hall, 6 Surrenden Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 6PA |
| Telephone number | 01273 557 144 and 01273 501991 |
| E-mail | |
| Registered person | Preston Park Playgroup |
| Type of inspection | Integrated |
| 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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

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

The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Preston Park Playgroup is a well established pre-school setting, located at St Mary's Church hall in Brighton. Children have access to a large main hall and also a safe and secure outdoor play area. The setting is open five days a week during term time, from 09:15 to 12:00 noon. The setting is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children aged from two to five years. There are currently 37 children on roll, with 14 children receiving nursery education funding. The setting supports children with disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. There is a staff team of five and all have either teaching or early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are healthy and active at the setting, effectively supported by staff who follow well organised hygiene practices. Children gain a good understanding of how to keep clean, through close adult support and guidance. Children's healthy development is effectively supported by

staff who take care to ensure children take part in a wide range of physical activities. Staff provide children with close support and guidance when using tools and exploring play resources. Children enjoy being active and energetic and have fun during a wide range of expressive games and outdoor activities. Children have healthy snacks and fresh fruit daily. Children enjoy using the setting's spacious main play area for active role-play games, with much running and climbing included. Staff develop children's physical confidence well and successfully support their healthy growth and development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The setting's play areas are effectively organised to ensure children have a wide range of opportunities to explore, develop and learn. Many colourful and attractive play resources are provided to interest and challenge children. Well organised access to colour, shape and number based play materials, ensures children have effective learning experiences. Children use art-craft materials and a wide range of resources to support role-play. Children also use assembly resources well, but the range of technology based play items is underdeveloped. Children are protected from accidents and harm through close staff supervision and a wide range of well organised safety procedures. Clear risk assessments are in place and staff are vigilant in maintaining safety outdoors. Staff take care to ensure children move safely around the setting and play together safely. Children's welfare is effectively protected by trained and experienced staff, with a good understand of the need to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children become involved and enjoy the setting's play and learning environment. Children's development is effectively supported by a well organised programme of games and activities. Children have many fruitful adult-child learning interactions, successfully encouraging their language development and awareness of colours, shapes and numbers. Children are encouraged to take an interest in books and reading and work closely with their key-workers to expand their skills with writing. Children learn how to use tools and explore a wide range of assembly and creative materials. Children are confident and inventive, creating their own games and adapting resources, during role-play. Children also enjoy using the setting's outdoor play area and range of larger play items. Many opportunities are provided for climbing and learning balance and children also have fun during messy play. Children's social confidence is well supported, during much one-to-one contact with staff and many well organised group activities. Staff use questions effectively to challenge children's thinking and help them make progress through the learning stages. Staff are experienced and confident in supporting children's learning and achievement.

Nursery Education.

The quality of teaching and learning is good. A well organised and effective learning programme ensures children have a wide range of stimulating experiences, to support their learning in all areas. Clear planning and preparation ensures children enjoy a successful range of challenges and learning experiences. Children also enjoy using language, with staff attentive in helping children to talk and use words descriptively. Staff successfully stimulate children's imaginations and provide many learning opportunities for children during inventive role-play sessions. Children are also given plenty opportunities to explore writing and learn letters, during both

set activities and free-play. Children explore nature and the seasons, with some lively fun and learning achieved when outdoors. At all stages throughout the setting's play and learning programme, children are consistently helped to feel confident and make good learning progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are made welcome and encouraged to play happily together. Staff are consistent in managing behaviour and children respond well to prompts to care for their surroundings and play materials. The setting takes care to encourage children to help each other and share, which fosters their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Children have regular one-to-one contact and staff take care to ensure individual children feel confident and included. Staff are also successful in developing children's involvement in group activities. The setting's learning programme includes a broad range of activities, well organised to reflect diversity and encourage children's awareness of the wider world. The setting is effective in providing parents with regular information on their children's health, care and development. Parents are given clear details of the early learning programme. The setting also has well written policies and guidance material which can be accessed by parents.

The partnership with parents is good. The setting has a written partnership with parents policy and staff can give parents clear information on individual children's achievements. Parents may also meet their children's key-workers to learn how their children are progressing. Parents are made aware of the setting's learning programme and regular learning themes. Staff guide parents to support their children's activities, but some further development is needed in encouraging parents to continue their children's learning at home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the effective organisation of setting's play and learning environment. Staff are effectively deployed to encourage children's development and communicate well to support individual children's achievement. A well organised range of activities and play experiences are provided for children, with plenty of challenging learning opportunities included. A good supply of stimulating and attractive play resources supports children successfully in having fun, being expressive and learning new skills. Children also have access to safe and well prepared outdoor play areas. Children benefit from an experienced staff team, who take care to support individual children and ensure all children enjoy their time at the setting. The setting's record keeping is well maintained and clearly written guidance material is also available for staff and parents. Regular staff meetings ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children attending.

The leadership and management within the setting is good. The funded children are effectively supported in their learning by a well organised staff team with a good knowledge of children's learning stages. The supervisor and nursery education leader guide staff successfully in providing children with a stimulating range of themed activities. The learning programme clearly includes all areas of learning and is effectively planned to promote children's achievement. The written evaluation of children's learning activities is also clearly organised, with detailed records kept of how children progress and extend their learning. The staff team are experienced and meet regularly to review the learning programme and monitor the effectiveness of their teaching.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, changes have been made to the presentation of resources and the setting's policy for safeguarding children, providing improved outcomes for children in Staying Safe.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

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

The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

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):

- Widen children's access to technology based play and learning resources

The quality and standards of the nursery education

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

- Further develop the partnership with parents to encourage the continuing of children's learning at home

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk