

Opportunity Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 113622
Inspection date 13 February 2008
Inspector Chris Mackinnon

Setting Address Yarburgh, Highfield Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 2DX

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Registered person Opportunity Playgroup

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

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Opportunity Playgroup is located at Yarburgh House in East Grinstead, West Sussex and is a well established sessional group offering play experiences for children with disabilities. The playgroup occupies the ground floor of a large house which also provides premises for a full day care setting on the first floor and another sessional day care facility in an adjacent annexe. The playgroup has shared access to an outside play area. The setting is registered for a maximum of 24 children aged from two to five years and there are currently seven children on roll. Sessions are from 9:30 to 12:00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday during term time. There is a staff team of six, which includes several volunteers to provide a high adult to child ratio. Most of the staff have early years experience and qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are kept healthy by staff following well organised hygiene procedures. Staff support children effectively in their developing awareness of how to be tidy and clean. Children are eager to try new experiences and are encouraged to develop their physical skills within a safe

and caring environment. Children are active and have many games and lively activities, including outdoor play, which they enjoy enthusiastically. Children have healthy snacks each day, with fruit included. Children also take part in food preparation activities and learn about healthy eating. Children's physical development and continued health is effectively supported, by the wide range of activities provided and high level of staff involvement.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to a well organised play and learning environment that has plenty of space and a broad range of resources. Care is taken to ensure the children's play areas are secure and safe and staff help children to move safely around the setting. Clear safety procedures are in place to ensure hazards are minimised, but fire safety drills not regularly carried out. Children enjoy using a wide range of play resources that provide tactile and sensory experiences. A well organised and extensive range of assembly, art-crafts and role-play resources also help children be creative and expressive. Children choose resources with confidence, learn new skills and have fun. Children with disabilities are safely and effectively supported within the setting, with staff able to adapt resources and activities easily. Staff have a confident understanding of child protection procedures and give priority to safeguarding children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the setting. They achieve well, supported by trained staff who provide a well organised and stimulating range of play and learning activities. Staff use their experience well and many good quality adult-child interactions help to develop children's confidence and skills. Children are encouraged to enjoy many inventive and challenging play experiences, including expressive art-crafts, role-play and sensory and tactile activities. Children respond enthusiastically to challenges to extend their physical development. Plenty of opportunities are provided for children to improve and accomplish skills through a wide variety of organised games and activities, including frequent outdoor play. Staff take care to support individual children's development effectively, and staff use questions successfully to challenge children and extend their learning. Staff are consistent in observing individual children's progress and work together well to provide experiences that support all children's enjoying and achieving.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy at the setting and are successfully encouraged to play a full part in the activities. Staff effectively guide children in sharing and turn taking and children learn to play happily together. Staff take time to get to know children individually and support their development. Children are encouraged to have an awareness of the wider world and have a range of opportunities to learn about other cultures. Staff maintain close and effective partnerships with parents, but the range of written agreements with parents is limited. Staff are able to advise parents on how their children progress and respond to activities. Children also benefit greatly from staff and parents working together to support children's developing skills and confidence.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's development is well supported by the effective organisation of the setting. Staff take care to ensure the play areas are well prepared for a wide range of play and learning activities. A well organised supply of assembly, role-play and art-craft resources provide children with much fun and opportunities to learn new skills. Children greatly enjoy the setting's well equipped sensory room and frequent outdoor play is also provided. Children are guided by a well organised and experienced staff team, who successfully provide a high level of adult support for individual children's care needs. All required documentation is well organised and up-to-date, and clear written guidance is available to ensure the setting is effectively managed. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the setting has increased record keeping, widened the range of safety procedures and parents now have clear details of the regulator, Ofsted. These changes support improved outcomes for children in Being Healthy, Staying Safe and Positive Contribution.

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

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.

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):

- ensure fire drills are carried out more regularly
- widen the range of written agreements with parents

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