

# Hedgehogs at Freegrounds

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY368405
<b>Inspection date</b>	25 June 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Tonia Chilcott
<b>Setting Address</b>	Freeground Junior & Infant School, Hobb Lane, Hedge End, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 0GG
<b>Telephone number</b>	01489 782295
<b>E-mail</b>	admin@freegrounds.jun.hants.sch.uk
<b>Registered person</b>	Hedgehogs @ Freegrounds
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Out of School 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](http://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?

Hedgehogs at Freegrounds opened in 2007. It offers before, after school and holiday care for children attending Freegrounds schools and Botley school in, Southampton. It operates from within Freegrounds Junior School. The group is registered to for a maximum of 26 children aged from four to under eight years at any one time. It is the setting's policy to accept children aged up to 12 years. There are currently 26 children aged from four to under eight years on roll. The before school club opens each school day from 08:00 to 09:00. The after school club opens each school day from 15:15 to 18:00, and the school holidays from 08:00 to 18:00. Children have access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the procedures followed by staff to ensure that children are protected from the spread of infection whilst handling food. For instance, staff wear disposable gloves at all times when handling food, thus ensuring that the risk of contamination is minimised. Children of all ages enjoy sitting together for snack time. They laugh and talk with one another,

whilst making their own sandwiches; older children help the younger ones with the task as they chat together. They make the sandwiches after selecting the filling of their choice that are readily available to them. Staff ensure that all food available to children takes into account their individual dietary requirements, thus ensuring that children's needs are met. Drinks are readily available to children throughout the sessions and to ensure that children are further protected from the spread of contamination, individual named cups are readily available for use.

Children learn good hygiene practices whilst at the setting. They are aware of the need to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet and do so with limited reminding needed from the staff. All staff undertake first aid training which ensures that children receive appropriate care in the event of a small injury. Permission in writing to seek emergency treatment or advice is in place for all children that attend the setting, and ensures that children receive suitable care in the event of a more significant injury. A fully stocked first aid kit is readily available at all times. Children enjoy regular activities in the fresh air; they access outdoor play on a daily basis and make good use of the school fields to play sports such as football.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled within the warm and welcoming environment. Staff greet children warmly when they arrive and ensure that activities are set up ready for children to access upon arrival, thus making children feel welcome. Children access a good range of toys and materials that are clean and well maintained and are presented well to provide a stimulating environment for children. Good use is made of storage units to ensure that children are able to make choices freely from the good range available. Children learn about fire safety whilst talking with staff on a regular basis about the fire drills. Staff use the time whilst children are sat taking part in the register to reinforce children's understanding of the procedures to follow in the event of a fire. This is further enhanced when children regularly take part in drills. Good procedures are followed by staff to ensure that children are safe, both inside and outside of the setting. For example, when groups of children are taken into the outside area, staff carry radios that enable them to speak to one another in the event of emergency. Daily risk assessments are completed on all areas accessible to children thus ensuring any hazards are identified and action taken promptly to minimise risk. Children are protected by a staff team that all have a secure understanding of child protection and the procedures to follow should they be concerned a child is at risk.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children of all ages thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting. They arrive happy and keen to take part in the activities available, despite some being tired after a school day. Many enter the setting, seeking and finding their friends and begin playing together immediately. Children enjoy activities that enable them to play quietly or more boisterously at the end of the school day. For instance, some choose to play football in the school fields, negotiating teams with one another and staff; others choose to remain in the main play room taking part in quieter activities such as electronic games. Older children play well with younger children and involve both staff and younger friends in their play. For example, when playing hangman on the whiteboard, children engage well with staff and help the younger children to identify the word on the board. Children of all ages concentrate for long periods of time whilst taking part in art

and craft activities. They choose to make birthday cards to take home, carefully designing and writing in the card, or spend time making face masks from paper plates, proudly showing staff their finished design.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children access a suitable range of toys and materials that promote positive images of society and support their learning about the wider world. Staff take time to gather information from parents, and to get to know the children individually to ensure that they are fully aware of and able to meet the individual needs of children that attend. Staff have a positive attitude regarding inclusion. Children behave well in response to praise and encouragement from staff, however, occasionally, staff do not confidently manage incidents involving older children, which means that sometimes incidents go unchallenged. Children regularly review and set the rules of the setting; they take it in turns to devise and write sets of rules that are shared with all children and ensure that children understand the expectations for behaviour. Parents welcome the service provided by the setting and have seen their children settle quickly when they first attend. Parents are provided with written information about the policies and procedures implemented by the setting and daily discussions take place to share information about their child's time at the club. Parents are able to contribute to the setting and their opinions are sought regularly with questionnaires and the information provided is used to evaluate the service offered and to continue to improve.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Space is used well to ensure that children are able to play freely whilst being supervised appropriately throughout. Good contingency plans are in place to ensure that space continues to be used well when onsite school activities make the large hall inaccessible to staff and children. Details are recorded relating to the arrival and departure of children and this is used consistently well by staff throughout the session when children arrive and depart at varying times to maintain an accurate record at all times. All required documentation is in place and used well to support the needs of all children attending the club. A good level of staff have completed relevant training relating to childcare and all have undertaken first aid training, ensuring that at all times a suitably qualified member of staff is on site. Effective induction procedures are in place for new staff and an appraisal system is in place that enables the training needs of all staff are identified and appropriate training sourced. Overall the setting meets the needs of the children for whom it provides care.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order 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):

- further develop all members of staff's confidence when managing children's behaviour to ensure that occasional incidents are consistently challenged

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)