

ABC Egremont

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY367971
Inspection date	27/10/2008
Inspector	Carys Millican
Setting address	St Bridgets Lane, EGREMONT, Cumbria, CA22 2BD
Telephone number	01946 821310
Email	
Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the setting

ABC Egremont is one of four nurseries run by ABC Early Learning Limited. It operates from a converted building in the centre of Egremont, on the edge of Castle Croft housing estate. A maximum of 110 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07.00 until 17.30 for 51 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 131 children aged up to eight years on roll. This includes 31 children who receive funded nursery education. Children attend breakfast and/or the after school club and the setting runs a holiday club for a maximum of 26 children aged five to eight years. They also provide facilities for children up to the age of 11 years. Children attend from a wide catchment area. There is disabled access to ground floor of the building with disabled toilet facilities available. The setting supports children who have learning difficulties or disability.

The nursery employs 22 members of staff. Of these, 19 hold appropriate early years qualifications. The manager holds Qualified Teacher status. The nursery is a member of National Day Nurseries Association and 4children. The nursery is registered on the Early Years register and both parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

ABC Egremont works effectively to ensure the promotion of children's safety and welfare. The sound management of the nursery promotes continuous evaluation and development in all areas of the provision and the manager recognises further areas of development to address. Effective planning systems, which clearly identify individual next steps for children's learning, mean that children are making good progress in their learning and development. The nursery is organised well and staff practice is effective to ensure inclusion for all children is achieved. Good partnerships with parents and other agencies help to ensure that children's needs are met effectively.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop the outdoor play area to ensure children can freely access on a daily basis
- examine current practices with regard to snack time and the provision of utensils
- make sure signatures are obtained from parents when informing them of any accidents or incidents.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are well cared for and their individual needs are met because the manager and staff of the nursery work well as a team. They ensure all children are settled, supported, stimulated and motivated to learn. Staff understand the policies and procedures, which are implemented effectively to ensure children's needs, are met. Children enjoy a good level of support from well-deployed and enthusiastic staff. The required documentation is in place; however, some parental signatures are missing from the accident records. Attendance registers accurately show when children and adults are present and written risk assessments and safety checks ensure the safety of the children on a daily basis. Effective safeguarding procedures, including a child protection policy, are in place and staff understand their responsibility to protect children's welfare. They have a secure knowledge of where to make referrals, should they have any concerns.

Clear recruitment procedures, including vetting procedures for new staff, help to ensure that children are safe and well cared for. Appropriate induction procedures ensure all staff working with the children are suitable to do so. In addition, the manager conducts annual appraisals to ensure ongoing suitability and that staff training needs are identified. Staff are secure in their roles and responsibilities and have a good working knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff hold regular meetings to discuss the coming month's planning and activities to be delivered. This ensures resources, staffing and deployment are effective. The manager has a clear vision for ongoing improvement and development of the setting. Working with the owners of the setting, the manager and staff have revised the record keeping and progress reports for children to incorporate the changes within the Early Years Foundation Stage. Funding has been sought by the setting to upgrade the outdoor play area, although it has been allocated to the nursery they have not as yet received it to make the much needed improvements; this has had an impact on the availability of free access to outdoor play for children.

Partnership with parents is good. Information is gathered from parents on registering regarding care, routine and developmental starting points. Parents are encouraged to stay to help settle their child when they first start. They feel valued and respected and praise the friendliness of the staff. Parents are presented with detailed information about the care and activities provided at nursery. Notice boards and walls are covered with a detailed information including information about planning and routines. Parents feel informed about their child's progress and explain how they become involved in their child's learning at home. The nursery has established links with local schools and other agencies to ensure children's needs are met. Children with individual learning needs have their learning journey document in place and there are clear links with other agencies and parents for information, guidance and support.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The outcomes for children are well met as staff are efficient in providing a safe, stimulating, child orientated, indoor environment where children can freely explore in their play and learning. Children of all ages are enthusiastic and well motivated in

their play. Older early years children enjoy baking activities as they make 'eye ball' cakes for Halloween. Curriculum planning follows children's interests and ideas so that they are motivated to learn. Resources throughout the setting such as the low-level labelled storage and the good organisation of the room promote children's independence well. Children self select and initiate their own choice of play. For example, children enjoy reading books so a good selection of educational, reference and reading books are made available on accessible shelving. Children confidently help themselves and staff skilfully extend their learning by asking questions as they look at the pictures. Children enjoy taking turns playing tabletop games and making large piece jigsaws on the floor. They benefit from opportunities to pour their own drink, visit the toilets independently or help to brush up spilt sand at tidy up time. All these activities promote high levels of independence as children take responsibility, develop self-help skills and grow in confidence in their own abilities.

Staff complete observations and assessments on children during free play and adult-led activities. This information is used to identify the children's next steps, which are incorporated into the short-term curriculum planning, ensuring individualised learning takes place. Staff have a good understanding of the early learning goals; consequently, the continuous provision ensures all six areas of learning are covered, providing a well-balanced programme of activities and experiences for the children. Staff make good use of the spacious interior to make sure children experience daily physical exercise. They dance to music or take part in physical exercise tapes. Babies enjoy the large ball pool, climbing frame and slide to develop their physical skills. Staff encourage walking as they hold young babies' hands and encourage their first steps around the room. The key person system is implemented well so that children form a close bond with the staff member who knows each child well. A kind and caring atmosphere is created. Staff are attentive to children when they are playing, and respond exceptionally well, ensuring they answer the children's queries in a way they fully understand. Children are praised and encouraged throughout the session, as staff focus on their positive behaviour and recognise their efforts to help others. They behave well because staff implement consistent rules and boundaries so that children know exactly what is expected of them.

Comprehensive risk assessments are systematically completed ensuring all safety measures are in place and effectively implemented for all areas, including children's outings. Children are secure because staff are vigilant and ensure the premises are safe for their use at all times. Staff complete detailed safety checks before children access the outdoor play area and restrict the number of children using it at any one time. Systems are in place to ensure all visitors are fully supervised whilst on the premises and children learn how to evacuate the building quickly and safely as they practise regular fire drills. Children's health and hygiene practices are generally upheld by staff setting a good example for children to follow. Children follow routine hygiene practices and clearly explain why they must wash hands before eating and after toileting themselves. Children benefit from a four weekly menu of nutritious snacks and meals. These ensure children receive a balanced diet and all individual dietary needs are met. However, individual portions of 'dips' for bread sticks are not provided to children at snack time and plates are not offered to place their food on, therefore, children's health is compromised.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

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

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	Good
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Good
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Good

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	Good
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Good
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	Good
How well are children safeguarded?	Good

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	Good
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	Good
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Good
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Good
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Good
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	Good
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	Good

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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.