

First Steps @ Roko (York)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY369871
Inspection date 21/10/2008
Inspector Rosemary Beyer

Setting address Roko Health Club, Stirling Road, Clifton Moor, York, YO30
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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

First Steps @ Roko (York) is a privately owned provision and registered to provide childcare on non-domestic premises. It is based in a health and fitness club, situated on the Clifton Moor retail park on the outskirts of York. The provision is registered to provide care for children from birth to under eight years and offers full day care, crèche facilities and out of school care. Currently 17 children are cared for in the early years age group. The hours of opening are from 08.00 to 18.00 Monday to Friday for 50 weeks of the year. In addition sports activities are held for children whose parents are members of the gym from 16.30 to 17.30 each week day.

All staff are appropriately qualified and experienced, with five staff in total working in the nursery and additional staff brought in for the Kids Camps.

The nursery is a member of the National Day Nurseries Association and receives support from the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Staff have a very good knowledge of each child's individual needs with information from parents and their own observations enabling them to promote all aspects of children's welfare and learning with success. The partnership with parents and other agencies ensures the needs of all children are met very well and they get any additional support they need. Children are safe and secure at all times and enjoy learning about the world around them. The manager and staff team have started regular self-evaluation to establish priorities for future development of the setting and training requirements, and through contact with parents are responsive to the needs of all users.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop opportunities for children to learn about living things such as plants and how they grow
- take steps to reduce the risk posed by the storage bags.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The setting is managed well, and staff work well as a team. The recruitment and induction programmes are effective, and ensure the staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They are all qualified and experienced, with good recruitment procedures in place. Clear, well written policies and procedures are in place to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting, and carried out consistently on a day to day basis.

The welfare of all children is safeguarded well as effective systems are in place to protect them from unsuitable or unauthorised persons, and staff have a good understanding of the child protection procedures should they have concerns. Risk assessments and safety checks are carried out regularly and recorded, although some storage bags have long cords which are a potential hazard. Both staff and children participate in fire drills each month to ensure familiarity with the procedure.

The manager and staff have started to implement self-evaluation systems to monitor the future development of the setting, with all staff having input during staff meetings when ideas for resources, changes to procedures or training needs are discussed to promote improved care for all children. An online system is to be adopted in the near future. Parents and children are also consulted about the nursery and asked for their views and any suggestions.

Staff ensure all children are included in the activities, and adapt the plans to take account of their abilities and interests. They have developed very inclusive practice and are keen to promote children's understanding of diversity, having built relationships with a nursery in Sri Lanka, and developed children's interest in other cultures and customs through the activities provided, although resources are still to be obtained to support them.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The staff plan the environment well to promote communication and literacy skills, and have plans in place to support children with English as an additional language or those whose speech is poorly developed or very advanced. The children enjoy stories, both with staff members or independently, helping themselves to the books in the book corner. They listen carefully while staff are reading and participate enthusiastically at story time when asked to do so.

Children are confident in their surroundings. They select resources and toys from the wide range available, and staff are on hand to provide assistance when needed, such as helping with complicated puzzles or dressing up. The children are very independent, and like to develop their own activities. They are eager to try what is offered and are starting to concentrate well. The children are all settled and comfortable with the staff and each other. They behave very well, are well mannered and polite to each other and the staff. They share without being prompted, and the more mature children help the younger ones with games.

Staff provide an interesting range of activities to promote children's mathematical development, including puzzles, baking and the daily calendar. Some of the children can count extremely well, identifying numbers correctly and starting to add and subtract. The activities are adapted to take account of the abilities of all the children attending, all are encouraged and achieve well given their starting points.

The children are starting to have a good understanding of healthy living. They implement good hygiene practice effectively, and know why they must wash their

hands after personal care and before food. They also discuss the need to eat well, and are starting to understand the benefits of different foods. Parents provide main meals, but the nursery provides healthy snack options for the children to choose. They can help themselves to water if they are thirsty during the day.

Physical play in the secure outside area is much enjoyed by the children, who know they need fresh air and exercise to stay fit. They use the resources capably and move around with confidence. The outside area is still being developed to provide opportunities for the children to develop their knowledge of the living world by growing things and investigating mini beasts.

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? | Satisfactory |
| The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement. | Satisfactory |

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? | Satisfactory |
| 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.