

Hatfield Broad Oak Under 5's

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	402138
Inspection date	25/09/2008
Inspector	Alison Pangbourne
Setting address	School House, High Street, Hatfield Broad Oak, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 7HH
Telephone number	07989 723550
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

Hatfield Broad Oak Under 5's opened in 1972 and operates in one room in a demountable building in the grounds of St Mary's Primary School. A maximum of 20 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The setting is open from 09:00 to 12:00 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 09:00 to 13:00 on Wednesday and Friday and from 13:00 to 15:30 on Tuesday and Thursday. The group operates for 39 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 32 children aged from two-and-a-half to four years on roll. Of these 23 children receive funding for nursery education. This provision is registered on the Early Years Register. Children come from the local and surrounding villages. The nursery welcomes children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language. The setting is not easily accessible for children and adults with mobility difficulties or disabilities.

The nursery employs four staff. All of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. It is owned and managed by the Hatfield Broad Oak Under Fives Committee.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Hatfield Broad Oak Under 5's provides well for the children in its care. Children do well because staff have a good understanding of each individual child's needs. They provide a rich range of exciting and stimulating activities that help them learn. Children are safe and secure at all times and thoroughly enjoy their time at nursery. The excellent partnership with parents and the local school contributes very strongly to their good progress. Regular self-evaluation means that priorities for further development are swiftly identified and acted upon. The setting offers good capacity for further improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- implement plans to improve the outdoor area to give more space for imaginative and physical play.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Good leadership and management ensure that the staff team work effectively for the benefit of the children. Thorough planning ensures that children enjoy a wide range of appropriate activities each day. Individual staff strengths are used well for the benefit of all children. The setting knows itself well and areas for improvement are quickly identified and measures put in place to address them. It has identified

that the outdoor area is too small to develop children's imaginative and physical skills. Staff are vigilant about ensuring children's safety and make sure that all children are included in each activity, regardless of their ability, gender or background.

All the required policies and procedures for safeguarding children are in place and are rigorously implemented. Risk assessments are undertaken regularly. Parents are delighted with the setting and the outstanding home to nursery diaries and regular information that build an excellent partnership with them. They say that they appreciate the information because it gives them enough to start a conversation with their child. One parent said 'My daughter has blossomed! She would come at the weekend!'

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Most children leave their parents willingly as they rush to discover what they will be doing. The few who are reluctant at this early stage in the year are quickly reassured by staff and distracted by an exciting activity. Staff take care to ensure that each child is well cared for at all times during the session, even when some fall asleep at the end of a busy morning. They are quick to respond if a child is upset or has had 'an accident'. Staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures and are familiar with all the necessary policies. Activities are well tailored to the needs of individuals, based on thorough and ongoing assessments based on EYFS guidance. Staff keep detailed records of their progress and share these with parents. Special programmes are set up for children who do not make the expected progress. Consequently, children achieve well and make good progress. Children are encouraged to be independent, pouring milk and tidying their toys. They behave well and are kind and caring towards each other. Routines are well established and children enjoy looking at the pictorial timetable to see how far along the morning's activities they are. There is a strong emphasis on basic skills and many displays encourage early reading and writing skills. A new computer is helping children to develop their 'mouse' skills. Children enjoy reaching into a bag to identify an item beginning with 'a' as part of their regular programme to learn their letter sounds.

Healthy eating is well fostered and the setting has recently been working with parents to encourage this. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Staff ensure their safety when going up and down the steps to their room. There is a strong emphasis on helping children understand the wider world with the current topic about Spain. Well chosen items on display interest the children and encourage their curiosity. The children are well prepared for moving on to school, particularly as they are expected to show 'good looking, listening and sitting' when enjoying a story. The needs of all children are well catered for. For example, some children are very young and find it difficult to express themselves. They take items from a 'song sack' to illustrate a song they would like to sing instead of having to ask. Although the outdoor area is small and cramped, the setting uses the school's outdoor area whenever possible, although this limits spontaneity for the children if it is already full.

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?	Outstanding
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 the last inspection.

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.