

Highgate Family Support Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	257169
Inspection date	21/01/2009
Inspector	Diane Ashplant

Setting address	Highgate Baptist Church, Conybere Street, Birmingham, West Midlands, B12 0YL
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Telephone number	0121 440 6788 or 3471
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Email	
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Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises
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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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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

Highgate Family Support Centre was registered in 1995. It has use of two rooms and the hall within the Highgate Baptist Church which is situated in the Highgate area of Birmingham. Access is via a ramp at the main entrance. A maximum of 40 children may attend the club at any one time and there are currently 42 children between 4 and 11 on roll of which three are in the early years age range. The after school club is open each weekday term-time only from 15.15 until 18.00. All children have access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area.

The after school club currently supports children with learning difficulties/disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The club is registered on the Early Years Register and also on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are seven staff who work with the children. Of these, nearly all hold an appropriate childcare qualification and four are currently working towards a further qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children enter confidently into a child-orientated environment where their care, learning and development is well supported by a well-established staff group. Staff are generally well deployed and engage naturally and positively with the children. All practice is inclusive and children from different schools mix well with each other. Children's individual needs are effectively met through discussion with parents and staff's informal observations of them and through some links with other settings. There is a good commitment to professional development through staff training and there are systems in place for monitoring the effectiveness of the setting.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop a regular two-way flow of information with parents and between other early years providers
- ensure there is a named Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and a named practitioner responsible for behaviour management issues
- continue to develop observational assessments in order to plan for children's individual needs and help them make progress towards the early learning goals.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that each child is assigned a key worker(Organisation).

06/04/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The club is effectively run through a well-established and committed staff group who provide a secure and welcoming environment for the children who attend after school. Children adapt well to the clear routine and all ages play well together with the older ones encouraged to support the younger ones. Any specific needs such as dietary requirements are discussed carefully with parents and respected while staff also make sure that all children are fully included. However, there are currently no identified key workers or designated roles to support each child more individually. There is a collection of appropriate policies and procedures to support the effective running of the club and daily records are well maintained. Staff work well together and there is a good commitment to training to improve professional knowledge and practice including some knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. There is an open dialogue with parents and children to assess the effectiveness of the provision, such as around healthy eating and parent questionnaires are regularly sent out to seek their views.

Partnership with parents is supportive and friendly and information is well shared through daily discussion and written information on the notice board and through the parent pack. There is a weekly plan of activities displayed and children take home items they have made which helps parents keep informed about what they are doing. Staff are well-known at the school through well-established collection routines although wider links to support children in the early years age range are in their early stages.

Children are well safeguarded as staff are fully alert to all risks and have taken appropriate action to ensure children are kept safe at all times. There are well documented routines, for example, for collecting children from schools which children respond to very well. The premises are safe and secure and all hazards are identified through the constant awareness of staff and a daily risk assessment and any required action is quickly taken. There are sound selection and recruitment procedures in place to ensure the suitability of those who work with children and no unchecked adults are left unsupervised around children. Staff are fully aware of their role and responsibilities as regards protecting children from potential harm or neglect and how to pass on significant concerns appropriately.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's welfare, learning and play are effectively supported at this provision where the session is planned to provide children with a variety of play opportunities and interesting activities so they can relax after school. Children are confident and sociable and make good relationships with their companions and the staff. They settle easily with staff who are well established at the setting and are comfortable in their relaxed discussions with the children. Children have a good awareness of their own and other's safety as they respond well to the clear routines and procedures of the group, such as collection from school or using equipment safely. They learn about healthy eating through regular discussions and interesting associated activities and benefit from a nourishing and well-balanced

tea menu cooked on the premises. Children have opportunities to play outside in the fresh air or the park and enjoy physical and team games such as rounders in the hall.

Children benefit from a very welcoming environment with the use of rooms that are almost exclusively their own and are therefore decorated with many bright and creative displays and set up thoughtfully in advance of their arrival. Children's behaviour is good as they are valued as individuals and listened to with respect by the staff who have used the children's ideas to compile and record the club rules displayed on the wall. Children mix well together and share in activities and the older ones are encouraged to support the younger ones and help them settle. Children are developing a good awareness of the wider world through discussions and activities related to different celebrations, such as Chinese New Year and Remembrance Day.

Staff are aware that children need to relax and have choices after a busy day at school and so they provide a balance of structured activities such as craft sessions and free play choices for children to enjoy. The week is planned to ensure that all areas of development are covered and includes some topical themes such as healthy eating and both staff and children have some input into this. The children know the routine well but within this staff are flexible to support children's moods and individual choices. There are additional rooms such as the hall and the computer room which children use during the week for physical play or homework. Staff clearly enjoy the children's company and engage well with them encouraging their development and interest through the effective use of questions, ideas and prompts. Children concentrate well on their chosen activities, engaging in wider discussion with staff and using their own initiative, curiosity and the resources available to follow their own interests and so extend their learning. Children are well settled and comfortable in the routines and join in the activities with concentration and enthusiasm. Although there are no formal systems for monitoring their progress staff get to know the children well through their own observations and through talking with parents and adapting activities to suit the individual.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is 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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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