

Outwood Pre School Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	501039
Inspection date	17/10/2008
Inspector	Maralyn Chiverton
Setting address	560A Leeds Road, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 2DT
Telephone number	01924825688
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

Outwood Playgroup is a committee run group. It opened in 1968 and is registered to care for 24 children on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The playgroup operates from a church hall in Outwood, on the outskirts of Wakefield. It serves the local and surrounding areas. There are currently 45 children on the Early Years Register. This includes five children in receipt of nursery funding.

The playgroup opens five mornings a week term time only. Sessions are from 09.15 to 11.45. Monday to Friday. There are six members of staff who work with the children, five of whom have a recognised early years qualification. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The setting is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and receives support from the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Outwood Playgroup provides a child friendly environment where children are highly valued as individuals and generally well cared for. There are very effective systems in place for monitoring and evaluating practice as well as identifying key strengths and areas for further improvement. Children make good progress in their learning through the implementation of an effective planning, observation and assessment procedure which includes children's starting points and extension of their learning. The playgroup has excellent relationships with parents and fosters close working relationships with other providers, which has a positive impact on the quality of care and education offered.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- introduce a more effective procedure for preventing cross infection with regard to hand washing
- create more opportunities for children to develop their imaginative, creative skills in art and design
- ensure new children's awareness of emergency evacuation is promoted.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Documentation which is required for the safe and efficient management of the setting is very well organised and used effectively to promote all aspects of children's health and safety. Staff are well qualified, experienced and dedicated to improving the quality of the care and education already offered. All staff have attended child protection training and have a secure understanding of their role

and responsibilities in keeping children safeguarded. Children's safety is further promoted through well written detailed risk assessments which cover all areas of provision as well as actions to manage or eliminate risks. However, emergency evacuation is not practised at the beginning of a new term which limits new children's awareness of what to do in such an event. Resources are effectively deployed to allow children to choose with freedom and safety. Self-evaluation systems are very effective in developing a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision. The playgroup has taken positive action to address recommendations made at the last inspection which has helped to further promote children's health and safety. For example, children are provided with a choice of healthy snacks and group sessions and activities are organised more effectively to meet the needs of all children. The playgroup has now introduced a system for staff appraisals.

The outstanding relationships with parents ensure that children's needs are effectively met. Parents receive a wealth of quality information about the provision and their child's care and education. The children's home-contact books inform parents about children's learning and the achievements they have made. Parents are encouraged to add their own comments. Informative notice boards as well as newsletters and information about the topic with planned learning outcomes furthers parents' awareness of how children learn through play. The playgroup has effective links with other providers to further develop children's care and welfare. It is pro-active in arranging meetings with external agencies to ensure that the needs of children with a learning disability or difficulty are well met. The playgroup is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive provision which meets the welfare and learning needs of all children who attend regardless of background.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are well supported in their learning through the staffs' secure knowledge of the Foundation Stage. They are provided with well planned learning areas and focused experiences which help children to make good progress towards the early learning goals. Children are able to play independently as well as in groups. They show good concentration and listening skills and are able to sound out their names and form recognisable letters. Colourful posters promote children's awareness of numbers and shapes. Children particularly enjoy participating and become involved in role play scenarios. They plant vegetables and hunt for mini beasts which promotes their awareness of the wider world and how things grow. Children learn balance and control as they use the climbing frame and slide and learn to manoeuvre wheeled toys such as bikes and prams. They develop their fine motor skills as they competently use a wide range of small equipment such as scissors, pens and pencils. Activities are well planned, purposeful and cover a broad and well balanced curriculum which covers all areas of learning as well as activities for outdoor play. However, children are not offered enough opportunities to develop their own imaginative, creative skills in art and design. There are very effective systems in place to identify starting points, and to record and monitor children's learning and development. Staff use focused observations which are linked into the early learning goals and include identification of next steps in children's learning. The meaningful involvement of parents in their child's learning through home-

contact books has a positive impact on children's learning and development.

Children are provided with a very warm and caring environment. They benefit from positive relationships between staff, parents and other children which allow them to be happy confident learners. Children's health and well-being is generally promoted as planned topics and discussion raise children's awareness of healthy eating. However, the use of a communal towel after hand washing does not help to prevent cross infection. Children are offered milk, water and a choice of fresh fruit at snack time. Their awareness of keeping themselves safe is well promoted through reiteration, simple explanation and discussion. For example, staff explain that all four legs of a chair need to be on the floor to prevent the chair from slipping and the child from hurting themselves. Children are beginning to understand right and wrong through the consistent boundaries and age appropriate methods used by all staff to manage behaviour. These include explanation, distraction and discussion. Staff encourage children to show respect and concern for others, to be well behaved and to take turns and share. When necessary staff intervene in minor disputes in a calm and fair manner. Children are provided with a good range of safe and suitable resources and equipment both indoors and outdoors.

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?	Satisfactory
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.