

Finchingfield Pre-School and Toddler Group

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY383906
Inspection date	18/11/2008
Inspector	Jackie Cousins
Setting address	Finchingfield C of E Primary School, Vicarage Road, Finchingfield, BRAINTREE, Essex, CM7 4LD
Telephone number	01371 811 048 or 07943 843 098
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).

Description of the setting

Finchingfield Pre-school opened in 1970. It moved premises onto the primary school site in September 2008. The pre-school is registered on the Early Years Register to provide care for a maximum of 14 children at anyone time. The pre-school serves the local area. The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions run from 09:00 until 11:30 and a lunch time club is available until 12:45. The three full-time and two part-time staff work with the children. Early years qualifications at Level 3 are held by two members of staff and one has a Level 2 qualification. Staff or children with disabilities are suitably accommodated with a ramp to enter the two classrooms. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and the local Special Educational Needs Co-Coordinator.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Finchingfield Pre-School gives children a good start to their education. It is a lively and very enjoyable place for children to learn because it is led effectively. Children are kept safe due to the fact that welfare requirements are met fully. The children make good progress in their learning because effective policies promote successful practice. Children from all backgrounds and abilities are included well in all learning activities. The pre-school offers good support for children who have learning difficulties or speak English as an additional language but none currently attend the setting. It has made considerable improvements since the last inspection and is in a good position to improve in the future.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- create a more detailed overview to record the attainment and progress that children make each term
- make sure that at the ends of sessions staff explain to children what they have done successfully and could do to improve.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Good management has drawn up effective policies to ensure children's welfare which are reviewed regularly. The leadership team have evaluated the way the pre-school works carefully and are aware of how to improve provision. They have identified that children could achieve even more if their progress and attainment was watched and analysed more closely. This would enable staff to identify children who are underachieving and give suitable support. Staff regularly update their knowledge by going on training courses and gaining relevant qualifications. Significant improvements since the last inspection include the fact that children have access to a safe outside area. The children are safeguarded well because

required checks are carried out on staff before they start at the pre-school. A good partnership with the primary school ensures that information on children is shared thoughtfully. The leadership works productively with parents. The parents spoken to said that their concerns are acted on very thoughtfully by staff.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children achieve well as a result of the effective teaching. They develop their key skills effectively because staff have high expectations of them. Children learn to use language successfully as a result of staff expertise. For example, they learn to describe precious objects to others in response to staff asking challenging questions about them. They learn about different types of transport well because resources such as the 'Finchingfield Bear' is taken on interesting journeys by children. At the beginning of sessions staff tell children what resources are available but they do not always remind them successfully what the focus for learning is with key activities. Staff take every opportunity to assist children to learn to count correctly such as encouraging them to count how many children and adults are present. Children's creative and physical development are promoted well. For example, they are taught how to control their arms well when they add actions to rhymes such as 'The Hokey Cokey'. Staff offer children positive feedback but at the end of sessions but they do not always give specific comments. This means that children are not fully aware of what they have done successfully or could do to improve. Activities are planned well for each week and a good range of resources are made available to children. Staff assess children carefully using national guidance well and the next steps that children will take are recorded carefully.

Children's welfare is of great importance to all staff. The children will happily go to any member of staff. They are well cared for whether they are in the classrooms or in the outside area. Children are kept safe in lots of ways due to the effective implementation of policies. The children handle equipment safely because staff guide them diligently. Occasional accidents are dealt with professionally because two members of staff have a first aid qualification for younger children. Records are kept in detail and so all are aware how accidents are handled. Excellent systems are in place to ensure that only parents or known carers collect children.

Pupils' personal development is good because staff care for their needs very conscientiously. Children's enjoyment is outstanding. It is visible when you watch them doing all the activities planned for them. They thoroughly enjoy learning about different materials and using mouldable ones. Children behave well. Children have a good understanding of how to move about the building and travel to the school hall safely. They successfully learn to be independent due to the fact that there are some activities chosen by children and some adult led. With their successfully developed social skills and well-promoted key skills they are effectively prepared for the next stage of education. Children's learning about how to be healthy is outstanding. They understand extremely well that fruit and vegetables are good for them. They learn to take regular exercise because the pre-school uses the school hall and outside area to develop children's skills of movement and dance. Children's emotional development is promoted extremely well through

discussion times with staff. The children learn to share at snack time because they sit at a table together. They learn to take turns successfully because staff talk to them and guide them carefully. The children learn effectively about how to eat healthily when they are offered fruits at snack time. Children enjoy a drink of water or milk half way through the session. They can have a drink at any time because there are cups or beakers available on a low shelf.

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?	2
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?	2
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?	1
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 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.