

Deanshanger Village Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY380329
Inspection date	20/03/2009
Inspector	Dorcas Forgan
Setting address	Community Centre, Little London, Deanshanger, Milton Keynes, MK19 6HT
Telephone number	01908 561370
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

Deanshanger Playgroup registered in 2008 in a new premises. It is registered on the Early Years Register. It is within the village community centre in Deanshanger, Northamptonshire. The group has its own dedicated entrance to an entrance hall with cloaks and toilets areas, office, disabled toilet, kitchen and a large main playroom. All children will have direct access to a secure, enclosed outside area.

A maximum of 30 children may attend the playgroup at any one time. Currently there are 86 children on role, 60 of whom are funded. The playgroup is open continuously each weekday from 09.00 to 12.00, from 12.00 to 12.45 for lunch and from 12.45 to 15:45 term time only. The group supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and children who speak English as an additional language. The playgroup employs six staff. Five of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. The playgroup receives support from the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Staff work effectively with the parents and other agencies to ensure that they understand the needs of each child so that they are fully included in the sessions that they attend. Children are making good progress in their learning because they take part in a varied range of interesting activities. Staff do not carry out evaluations of all aspects of the care they provide though they have asked parents to provide their opinions. They have identified areas for improvement and additional training.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure all staff are confident in their knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the areas of learning, and are effectively deployed so that they can help children to make progress in their learning
- carry out self-evaluations to identify the setting's strengths and priorities for development that will improve the quality of provision for children
- develop further the assessments made from the observation to ensure children are making progress

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Staff have a clear understanding of their responsibility to safeguard children. The committee and staff together have developed a comprehensive range of policies and procedures which the committee are presently reviewing. These are easily accessible to the parents. Staff ensure that all necessary documentation is kept competently. Staff are adequately qualified and attend additional courses when

possible, some lack a confident understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff are deployed effectively for the majority of the time to support and encourage the children. There is a wide range of resources presented at each session for the children to choose from, in addition they can request alternatives as they wish. Staff assess the resources and order new ones whenever possible to further stimulate the children. The committee raise the funds for these. Risk assessments to ensure the children's safety are very effective, staff are very aware of areas that could be a concern and monitor them competently. The children's welfare is very well organised. Staff work closely with parents ensuring that they exchange information daily. They know the individual children well, and carry out observations which they discuss with the parents and set the next steps of learning. Because the system is still quite new they have not managed to monitor these so that they can be sure that all children are making progress.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children enter the playgroup with great excitement keen to see what activities are on offer. The majority are very well settled and confident. Staff support the children's learning well providing them with good resources and plenty of opportunity to make decisions for themselves. The environment is a new pleasant building that is light and bright with several attractive displays. Due to the poor acoustics the noise levels can be high but improve once the doors are open to the garden. Staff provide a wide variety of interesting activities spread between the playroom and the garden. Children are eager to join in adult led activities such as cleaning out the giant snails or taking part in cooking chocolate refrigerator bars. Children initiate their own games, some taking part in role play, packing their suitcases and going on holiday or writing letters that they carefully fold and place in envelopes. Staff have recently changed the way they plan activities so that they are based on the children's interests and can be adapted for children's different abilities, they ensure that all areas of learning are included. The playgroup work very closely with parents and other settings and professionals to enhance the opportunities for all children.

Every child has a key worker who is responsible for settling the child and learning about the child's specific needs and interests, they engage with the parents and make sure that they are fully informed. Children are gaining a very good understanding of how to keep themselves safe, for example, they learn how to use the large equipment in the garden appropriately, and where to go during an emergency evacuation. They are developing very good personal hygiene habits and are becoming independent as they help themselves to drinks and snacks with very little adult intervention. In general the children behave very well learning to take turns and share, this is boosted by the positive remark system where all are made aware of any individual child's exceptional conduct.

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.	3

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 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

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted.

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.