

Hickory House Holiday Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY307183
Inspection date 07/04/2009
Inspector Penny Wood

Setting address Glebe Hall, Winterbourne Earls, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4
6HA

Telephone number

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).

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

Hickory House Holiday Play Scheme was registered in 2005. It operates from Glebe Hall in Winterbourne Earls, near Salisbury, Wiltshire. There is an enclosed space available for outdoor play. The play scheme is one of 13 play schemes operated by Bright Horizons Family Solutions Limited and is only open to those parents who work at the Health Protection Agency and Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory.

The play scheme operates each weekday during school holidays only, from 08:00 to 17:30. Children may attend all day between 08:00 and 17:30, or for a variety of shorter sessions. There are currently 70 children on roll, of these, three are within the early years age range.

The play scheme employs three staff to work with the children, all of which hold an appropriate childcare qualification. The setting is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of provision is good. Children enter the setting with ease and quickly settle into their play and activities. Children know each other and the staff well because the setting is primarily only available to parents who work at the Health Protection Agency or the Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory. As a result, generally the same group of children attend the setting on a regular basis, which has allowed them to form good relationships with each other.

Children benefit from the attention they receive from staff who ensure that their individual needs are met at all times. Good systems are in place to ensure all children are welcomed into the setting and included within the daily routines. Recommendations, which were raised at the last inspection, have been addressed well and as a result, documentation and recording systems have improved.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop contact with other providers in order to support children within the holiday play scheme

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Hickory House Holiday Play Scheme is one of a number of settings operated by Bright Horizons Family Solutions Ltd and has close links to Hickory House Nursery. The setting is staffed by an established core of qualified staff who work well together and are familiar with the policies and procedures within the group.

Good systems are in place to safeguard children's safety. Children benefit from the clear systems in place to reduce hazards within the setting. Risk assessments take place prior to each scheme operating to ensure hazards are identified and action is taken to reduce any risk to children. In addition, outings are thoroughly risk assessed to ensure children are able to enjoy themselves free from the risk of harm. Particularly good systems are in place to identify potential risks in relation to children's allergies and medical conditions. As a result, staff have detailed information in relation to causes, symptoms and the action to take in an emergency. Staff pose a clear understanding of the child protection policy and procedures, which promote children's welfare.

Parents play an important role within the setting. For example, a parent representative is invited to attend meetings to evaluate the settings provision and to have input into future schemes. Further feedback is sought from both parents and children at the end of each scheme. Information gained is used to inform the activities and practice of subsequent schemes. Good systems are in place to ensure information is readily available to parents. For example, a policy and procedures booklet is available for parents within the entrance foyer. Although the setting endeavours to gain detailed information from parents in relation to individual children's needs, they do not as yet make contact with other providers which children attend to ensure they are able to provide the maximum support possible for individual children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and settled within the holiday play scheme. They play well together and clearly enjoy each other's company, with most having originally met their friends when attending the nursery. Children benefit from the continuation within their care, having known the staff when at nursery and now meeting them again within the play scheme. This enhances children's confidence and promotes an atmosphere of familiarity within the group.

Children benefit from the setting's ethos that they seek to provide children with challenge and stimulation accompanied by an element of structure, whilst ensuring it remains enjoyable and fun. Children benefit from the provision of a good range of planned activities, many of which are based on children's interests and requests. Staff are proactive in researching for new ideas using the internet and activities, such as arts and crafts, are well resourced.

Staff monitor and complete observations on children within the early year's age range to ensure they enjoy opportunities to complement their learning, which primarily takes place within other settings. Observation sheets clearly indicate future activities aimed to extend children's learning and interests within the group. Good systems ensure staff are fully informed of children's additional needs and are able to include all children accordingly. Children display a positive attitude towards allowing others to join their activities. For example, without prompting they willingly move their chairs around the table to allow another child to join in with arts and crafts.

Staff are sensitive towards the younger children and quietly reassure the children in terms of the emergency procedures and the activities available during the day. Children enjoy the good range of opportunities available, which allow them variety in their play and are readily accessible within the room. For example, children confidently rummage through boxes of dressing up clothes and enjoy dressing up together in a small group. The youngest children are not fazed when older children approach and the different age ranges clearly play well alongside each other.

Children benefit from the flexible approach towards the daily session. For example, children are free to enjoy activities for as long as they wish, particularly when playing outside. Good opportunities encourage children to develop their physical skills whilst being active. They enjoy access to a good range of outdoor resources, such as balls, Frisbees and skipping ropes. Children visibly enjoy being outside and enjoying the large open space opposite the hall.

Appropriate systems encourage children to be aware of good hygiene procedures, such as regularly washing their hands during the day, particularly before eating. Children are able to help themselves to drinks during the session, ensuring they do not become thirsty. Visitors to the group promote healthy living. For example, on the day of inspection children enjoyed a visit from an oral hygienist, participating well in the discussion and sharing stories about their teeth.

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?	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

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 registration or 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.