

Beehive Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	103783
Inspection date	27/03/2009
Inspector	Linda Patricia Coccia

Setting address	c/o Cuxton Community Infant School, Bush Road, Cuxton, Rochester, Kent, ME2 1EY
Telephone number	07906 249545
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

Beehive Playgroup opened in 1990 and operates from two rooms in a mobile classroom in the grounds of Cuxton Community Infants School. It is run by a committee of parents and volunteers who also run an Out of School Club (OSC) called Buzz Club from the same premises. The provision is situated in the village of Cuxton, Rochester, Kent. A maximum of 30 children may attend the setting at any one time. There are currently 53 children attending who fall within the Early Years Register. The provider is also registered on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The pre-school is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 09:00 to 15:15, Wednesday and Friday 09:00 to 11:45, term time only. Extra rising fives sessions are conducted on a Wednesday afternoon during the summer term. The Buzz Club operates before and after school between the hours of 07:45 to 08:45 and 15:15 to 18:00. It also operates during school holiday periods. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The setting has disabled access. Children come from a wide catchment area.

The pre-school employs six staff. Of these, five staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications to NVQ level two and above. Two supervisory staff are currently improving their qualifications to degree level. The OSC has four staff, of these, two hold NVQ qualification to level three or above.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. The provision is effective in promoting inclusion for all children. Although there are no children currently attending who speak English as an additional language, there are procedures in place which would enable staff to use effective communication. Staff know children well, which ensures that children's individual needs are catered for. The provision is able to maintain continuous improvement through regular reviews of its policies and practices.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure children's observational records are more readily available to parents
- review the policies and procedures to bring them up to date with current Early Years Foundation Stage terminology
- review the links between observational record keeping and activity planning so that they clearly show how planned activities meet each child's next steps

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The provision is well managed and led. The committee carry out annual reviews of the policies to ensure they meet current requirements. However, there are few references to the terms 'inclusion' and 'safeguarding' within the policies. They ensure staff are suitable to work with children through their rigorous and robust recruitment and vetting procedures. Their rigorous staff appraisal systems ensure staff remain suitable. Staff training files are thorough and show that all staff have recently attended child protection training. Staff are encouraged to attend all types of training to improve their skills and a number are upgrading the qualification levels. The committee also carry out regular fundraising events to ensure that a good range of toys and equipment are well maintained and available to the children.

The supervisor and her deputy competently ensure the setting provides high standards of care. They encourage staff to work as a successful team by attending regular team meetings and sharing ideas for activities. Parents report that staff are approachable and willing to discuss the children at any time. However, children's observational records are not kept on the premises, which inhibits parents from regularly looking at them. Parents are invited to a number of social events, such as barbecues and field trips, and many parents are keen to take part. Parents receive a news sheet each term. Information about the EYFS and copies of the group's policies are displayed in the entrance area. One parent stated that she trusts the staff implicitly. Parents are also involved in the provision's self evaluation process and are provided with questionnaires to record their views and ideas. All returned questionnaires are appreciated and those that have queries or offer constructive criticism are replied to and acted upon. Staff are also involved in the evaluation process, which also includes instances of reflective practice of activities for the children. Children benefit from well thought out procedures.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are making good progress towards the Early Learning Goals. Children are engaged in a good range of interesting and absorbing activities which help them learn. For example, one child confidently 'fixed things' for staff as he used his spanner and another measured items with a tape measure and then recorded their size on a piece of paper with the help of his key worker. Other children enjoy the use of the large electronic wall board to draw pictures while some competently use musical instruments to create their own songs. The group often have visiting musicians to help children learn about and enjoy music. Children see an excellent range of positive images of race, gender and disability through the toys they use and the posters and pictures displayed. Children are inquisitive of visiting adults. They are polite and like to include them in their play, particularly inviting them to eat food cooked on the play cooker. Boys and girls alike use the home corner for role play. They are involved in many activities with food and through these they learn about healthy eating and nutrition. The provision uses a key worker system. Key workers are responsible for compiling the children's observation records and identifying children's next steps. Records are clear about what the children are

achieving. However, there are few written links between the observations, next steps and planning to clearly show which children are being targeted for which activities and why.

Children really enjoy their time at the setting and build excellent relationships with staff. Children are very confident in the use of the setting's routines. They are competent in self care, are fully conversant with the emergency evacuation drills and are fully engaged during story and news times. They also learn about safety as they receive regular reminders about the use of equipment both indoors and outside. The children's individual medical and health needs are met and the records kept are meticulously recorded. Their individual dietary needs are fully discussed with parents, recorded so that all staff can view them and changes made to procedures where severe cases of allergies are reported. Children's health and wellbeing are promoted.

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?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
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 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.