

Shooting Stars at Christ Church

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY386654
Inspection date	01/07/2009
Inspector	Lisa Patterson
Setting address	Christ Church, Broadway, MORECAMBE, Lancashire, LA4 5BJ
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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 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

Shooting Stars at Christ Church has been registered since 2009 and operates from the community building belonging to Christ Church on Broadway, Morecambe. Children have access to two main halls and an enclosed outdoor area. It is open each weekday, from 07.30 till 09.00 and 15.00 till 18.00 offering a drop off and collection service from local schools. There is also a holiday scheme during all holidays except for Christmas.

The setting is registered on the Early Years Register. A maximum of 60 children may attend the club at any one time. There are currently five children in the early years age range on roll. The setting is also registered with Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

There are four members of staff who work in the setting and two additional staff and a volunteer to help with the walking buses. Four staff members hold appropriate early years qualifications to at least National Vocational Qualification level 2 and the manager is a qualified teacher. Advice and guidance is provided by the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The setting promotes many aspects of children's welfare with success, ensuring they are safe and secure, however risk assessments for outings are brief, risks identified in the outdoor area have not been permanently resolved, and regular emergency evacuation practices do not take place. Children's achievement is sufficiently well monitored through ongoing observations, though links with other providers have not been fully formed so that individual developmental needs are fully understood. Parents enjoy suitable links with the setting and are provided with enough information about the setting, however, some documentation is not in place or available to them at all times. The setting has made some changes since registration and have identified some targets for further development, making use of ongoing training to inform their practice and written procedures.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make more effective links with parents and other settings providing the EYFS to the children to support their learning and development
- carry out regular evacuation drills and record details in a log book of any problems encountered and how they were resolved
- further develop partnerships with parents through having policy documents available on site during every session and make sure there is a record of parents having been informed of accidents in the setting

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- request emergency contact numbers for all children 01/10/2009
- make safe aspects of the outdoor environment identified through the risk assessment and carry out a full risk assessment for each type of outing including adult:child ratios 31/07/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Documentation is sufficiently well maintained, organised and stored confidentially. Written policies are in place with shortened versions available to parents. While staff have a full and thorough understanding of the policies and procedures through induction, policies relating to the safeguarding section of the Early Years Foundation Stage are being revised and are not on site to share with parents. Risk assessments are in place and daily checks are recorded for all areas used by the children. They do not, however, contain everything with which a child may come into contact, particularly for outings. Since registration the setting has worked hard to develop the routines of the sessions, so that the needs of all children are met. Monitoring of the setting through staff meetings and discussions with parents has identified reasonable priorities for development, for example, the outdoor area, for which funding has been sought. Emergency contact details for every child are not requested on the details forms and, while staff confirm that parents are informed of accidents, there is no record.

Parents are informed of all aspects of the setting through a large notice board containing a wealth of information. They receive newsletters and regular feedback from a member of staff when dropping off or collecting their child. They do not currently share information about their child's development and liaison with other settings providing the Early Years Foundation Stage is not sufficiently focussed on development.

Children are sufficiently well safeguarded because staff have a clear understanding of the issues and procedure outlined in the written policy. The nominated person has attended recent training and is well qualified. Regular risk assessments and monitoring of the setting on a daily basis keep children safe from harm and, while there are identified hazards in the outdoor area, strategies are in place to maintain the children's safety until more permanent solutions are in place.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the setting. They are given a free choice of a wide range of activities and staff ask them what they would like to play with each evening. The play spaces are well organised, with continuous provision for most areas of learning and planned activities each night, based on the needs of the children, are well liked by the children. This is well monitored to make sure areas are equally delivered. Individual needs, likes and dislikes are sufficiently well

understood with ongoing observations highlighting any areas that require further support. Children relax into the large soft cushions in the reading corner and enjoy sharing books. They learn about the world through plenty of outdoor play, planned activities about different countries, such as American Independence Day and mini-themes, for example summer. They thoroughly enjoy trips to the beach in the holidays, making sand castles and digging large holes. They are very creative, using a wide range of techniques and media for making marks and their work is displayed on the large display boards. Their physical development is well supported through the wide range of equipment available to them. They throw and catch, skip, balance, run and jump and are reminded to take a drink when it is particularly hot.

Children learn to be safe through being included in devising the rules. They wear high visibility vests on the walking buses and respond well to requests not to run or to play with the ball in particular areas. Their knowledge of what to do in an emergency, however, has not been sufficiently well supported because regular emergency evacuation practices have not been carried out. Children enjoy physical activity on a daily basis and enthusiastically eat the nutritious and balanced meals on offer, including meatballs, an extremely wide variety of fruit, cheese and crumpets. Meal times are social occasions and children sit together, talking about their day at school and their plans for the evening. Children are exceptionally well behaved. There is an atmosphere of mutual respect and on the rare occasions in which there is inappropriate behaviour it is dealt with calmly, giving clear explanations and respecting their individual needs. Children learn to respect diversity through a wide range of resources and activities, and the bright colourful displays of commercial posters.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
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?	3
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?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
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?	3

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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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