

Ringstead Robins Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number 220004
Inspection date 31/03/2009
Inspector Sarah Measures

Setting address High Street, Ringstead, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN14 4DA
Telephone number 01933 460775
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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 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

Ringstead Robins is a committee-run community playgroup. It has been running for over 30 years in the rural village of Ringstead from the Old Institute Building, which has been refurbished for the sole use of the group. The accommodation includes a kitchen within one playroom area, a second large playroom and toilets, plus a secure outdoor play area. The pre-school serves the local and surrounding villages. The premises has disabled access and is on one floor.

The playgroup is registered for 30 children within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). At present, it does not cater for children on the compulsory and the voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently 43 children on roll. The playgroup supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Children attend for a variety of sessions and the playgroup opens five days a week from 09:00 to 15:00 in term-time only. Seven staff work with the children throughout the week, all of whom either hold or are working towards recognised early years qualifications. The playgroup has links with the local school, childminders and another local pre-school. The setting receives support from the local authority early years advisory team.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The overall effectiveness of the playgroup is satisfactory. Children make good progress towards the early learning goals. However, not all aspects of children's health and safety are appropriately considered within some procedures and documentation that is kept to promote children's welfare. All children are valued as individuals and warmly welcomed into the setting. Policies and procedures successfully promote an inclusive provision for children and children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are well-supported. The provision for continuous improvement is secure because staff regularly meet and plan to improve upon the experiences for children offered within the setting.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop an effective system to evaluate the educational programmes for children within the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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

- make sure that evidence is available to show that all staff are suitable to look after the children and make sure Ofsted is informed of individuals that make up the committee (Suitability of adults, also applies to the compulsory and the voluntary parts of the Childcare Registers)

17/04/2009

- maintain records, policies and procedures required for the safe and efficient management of the setting and to meet the needs of the children (Documentation, also applies to the compulsory and the voluntary parts of the Childcare Register)

17/04/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Policies and procedures effectively promote children's learning and development. Children are purposefully engaged in a wide range of interesting activities that promote all aspects of their development. Staff work well with parents and other carers in order to get to know children and to meet their needs. Good quality and well-presented assessments of children's progress are regularly shared with parents and include useful information as to how children are learning within the EYFS. Parents contribute to assessments by sharing their observations from home through ongoing discussions with staff, and by posting notes of children's achievements on the parents' board. The playgroup informally reflects upon its practice at staff and committee meetings and the manager completes action plans with support from the Local Authority in order to further develop the provision for children. There is no current system that enables staff to effectively monitor the quality of the educational programme in order to identify possible improvements in planning and organisational areas for development within the book area and dressing up area.

Children are safeguarded because secure child protection policies and procedures are in place. However, appropriate documentation is not maintained in order to ensure children's health and safety in the event of an emergency and records of medication administered are not always kept for parents to check and sign. Ofsted have not been advised of all new committee members in order for appropriate vetting to take place and evidence is not available at the setting that shows how all staff are successfully vetted to be suitable to work with the children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children arrive and settle very well. There is a busy and friendly atmosphere within the setting that is fostered by staff's warm and caring interactions. Children are confident and choose freely from a varied range of fun learning experiences planned for them within the indoor and outdoor play areas. All staff are involved in the planning which enables them to develop a good working knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. As a result, staff carry out good quality observations on the children that they use to capably assess children's progress and plan for their individual development. Staff engage children in purposeful discussions that encourage their language for communication and their knowledge and understanding. Children use a good variety of equipment that encourages their pre-writing skills. They show good perseverance and concentration as they develop their own ideas whilst painting and exploring with colour.

Children benefit from regular and lengthy periods of play within the newly developed outdoor play area. They develop good physical control and co-ordination as they use a varied range of wheeled toys, balls, hoops and climbing and balancing equipment. Toys and equipment are safe and suitable for the range of needs of the children. Children learn independence as they wash their hands before snack, and as staff encourage them to carry out tasks for themselves and to solve problems for themselves. Children are well-behaved because they feel secure and because they are well-occupied. Staff actively promote children's responsible and considerate behaviour through their positive role-modelling, praise and encouragement.

Children are well-supervised and supported because good adult-to-child ratios are maintained. Staff carry out regular risk assessments of the premises and any outings off the premises in order to ensure children's safety. However, records are not well-organised and risk assessment documents are not all kept in order to show how they are carefully reviewed. Care is taken to ensure children's arrival and departure is safely managed and secure systems are in place to ensure children are safely collected by appropriate persons.

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?	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?	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?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	3

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?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
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:

Not Met (with actions)

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

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified within the early years section of the report (Suitability to care for, or be in regular contact with, children) 17/04/2009
- take action as specified within the early years section of the report (Records to be kept) 17/04/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified within the early years section of the report (Suitability to care for, or be in regular contact with, children) 17/04/2009
- take action as specified within the early years section of the report (Records to be kept). 17/04/2009

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.