

Parklands Learning and Care Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY280087
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Inspector David Shepherd

Setting address Parklands Primary School, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton,
NN3 6DW

Telephone number 01604 495937

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 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

Parklands Learning and Care Centre has been registered since April 2001. The club operates from a mobile in the grounds of Parklands Primary School, Northampton. The mobile consists of two rooms, kitchen, office and associated facilities and has an outside play area that includes a hard surfaced and small grassed area. A plastic climbing frame is located on the grassed area. The centre also has access to part of the school field that is next to the mobile. Disabled access is through the front door. The centre caters for children between the ages of three and 11 years who attend Parklands Primary School. It is registered for 32 children and currently has 73 children on roll of whom eight are of Early Years Foundation Stage age. The centre is open Monday to Friday 07:30 to 08:40 and 15:30 to 18:00 during term time. There is a holiday play scheme which operates during all school holidays between 08:00 and 18:00. Children from the surrounding area attend the play scheme. There are of total of six staff who work directly with the children and their qualifications meet statutory requirements. Links with the school are good. The centre is on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Parklands Learning and Care Centre meets the learning and development needs and welfare of children of Early Years Foundation Stage age satisfactorily. All children are included effectively in all activities because of the good relationships between staff and children. The centre provides a wide variety of activities that reflects all areas of Early Years Foundation Stage provision. Links with parents are satisfactory and with the school they are good. The centre has a satisfactory capacity to improve further.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure each child of Early Years Foundation Stage age has a key worker
- ensure risk assessments are carried out daily for regular activities that children carry out in the setting
- ensure staff assess the progress being made by children of Early Years Foundation Stage age and respond appropriately to help them make progress towards the early learning goals.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The manager and staff of the centre have developed a range of policies and established procedures that ensure the safe and efficient management of Early Years Foundation Stage provision and that the needs of all children are met. However, the complaints procedure does not include OFSTED's address to inform

parents clearly where to send their complaint should they need to do so. Children are supervised by staff, some of whom are appropriately qualified. The manager has a level 3 qualification, one member of staff has a NNEB qualification, the assistant manager has a level 2 qualification and four staff are unqualified as playworkers. A volunteer also works in the centre. Three staff are trained in paediatric first aid and all are CRB checked. Six staff work in the centre at any one time, half of whom are appropriately qualified. This complies with statutory requirements. Two staff are looking to train for their level 2 qualification.

Staff review their provision at their monthly meetings. They also share their thoughts with each other at the beginning and end of each session. Committee meetings are also held each month. However, the manager and staff do not use national guidance in order to reflect and improve on all aspects of provision. The overall quality of self-evaluation is satisfactory and indicates that the capacity to make improvements is also satisfactory.

Staff are deployed satisfactorily. There is no key worker system in place for the younger children, but staff know them well. However, they do not assess and record the progress towards the standards expected of children of Early Years Foundation Stage age under the six areas of learning.

Staff take steps to ensure that children are safe. Risk assessments are carried out on equipment and premises daily to ensure that no unavoidable accidents take place. They are also carried out for off site visits. However, they are not carried out on the routine activities that are carried out by children. Children are closely supervised at all times and this helps to keep them safe.

All children are included effectively in activities because they are encouraged to do so by staff who keep an eye on what each child is doing. The needs of all children, including those of Early Years Foundation Stage age, are met satisfactorily. For example, during the inspection, one child asked the manager to read her a story and another asked a member of staff to play pool with him. Children enjoy activities such as this and become engrossed in them, concentrating well with maturity for their ages.

Links with parents are satisfactory. The registration forms include all the statutory information required. Parents engage in friendly conversations with staff when collecting their children. Newsletters are sent to parents each term informing them of what is happening in the centre. Relationships with parents are satisfactory and help to create a friendly family atmosphere in the centre.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Provision for children's welfare needs is satisfactory. Children are happy and content in the centre. They are polite and courteous and behave well for their ages. They treat equipment with care and tidy up after using the equipment with. Staff encourage children to walk around the room sensibly and consider others when carrying out their activities. They mix and play well together, for instance, when playing on the climbing equipment and playing football outside. Children

engage in mature conversations when playing games or eating their snacks. However, some children walk around the room and play games while eating their snacks. This is a pity because, on these occasions, staff miss the opportunities to promote social conversations among children during snack times by not encouraging children well enough to sit down at the table and eat together. In addition, too many children enter the kitchen area and talk with the cook when the meal is being prepared. This presents a risk of accidents taking place. Snacks are healthy and include fruit, pasta and sauce, fruit juice and water. Children have free access to drinking water at any time. Appropriate emphasis is placed on children washing their hands before having a snack or after they have used the toilet. Overall, children make a satisfactory contribution to the smooth running of the centre and this makes them satisfactory learners and helps them for the next stage in their schooling.

Provision for children's learning development needs is satisfactory. The learning environment is interesting and varied. Children enjoy what is provided for them. They engage in a wide variety of activities such as playing pool, quiet reading, art and craft activities, playing computer games, imaginative play and listening to music. Outside activities include football, netball and feeding the birds. The centre provides satisfactorily for each of the six areas of learning for children of Early Years Foundation Stage age. The centre is well resourced and even has a keyboard and electronic organ for children's use. Children have good opportunities to talk and listen to each other and engage in computer activities. Opportunities to consolidate their number skills are satisfactory. Children choose any activity in which they wish to take part. They also have free access to outside activities. However, staff do not assess well enough the progress being made in the activities chosen by children in order to extend their thinking further and help the younger children, in particular, to reach the standards expected of them for their age.

The accommodation, furniture, equipment and toys are appropriate for the ages of the children and are in good condition.

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?	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?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
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

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