



Sunbeams Pre-School Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	253343
Inspection date	12 October 2005
Inspector	Anne Cooper
Setting Address	Earp Avenue, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 4AB
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Registered person	Sunbeams Pre-School
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Sessional care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Sunbeams Pre-school Playgroup opened in 1996, and operates from two rooms in the renovated stable block in the grounds of the Magnus Church of England School in Newark. The playgroup serves the local community and the surrounding villages. A maximum of eighteen children may attend the playgroup at any one time. The playgroup is open each weekday from 9.00 to 11.30 or 13.00 for children attending the lunch club. During some school holidays the group meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.00 to 14.00.

There are currently thirty two children on roll, who attend a variety of sessions each

week. Children with special needs would be supported by the group.

The playgroup employs four part time staff to work with the children, of whom one has a level three qualification in childcare and another member of staff who has an appropriate early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's good health is promoted through the use of sound hygiene procedures, such as using colour coded cloths. The children learn about personal hygiene through daily routines, an example of this is washing hands after visiting the toilet and before eating. The playgroup policy states children have access to outdoor play, however there was no evidence of the children playing outside during the inspection. A small slide was provided inside, which the children enjoyed using and was well supervised by the staff.

Healthy snacks are provided at break time and the staff recognise children's individual dietary needs. Some children stay for the lunch club, and then parent's provide the packed lunch. There are effective procedures if children become ill, and all staff have undertaken a first aid qualification.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for and safe in this setting. The building provides appropriate space for children to freely move around, and is bright and very colourful which makes it inviting to children. The children are able to independently choose from a good range of safe resources and craft materials. Most aspects of the building and equipment have been risk assessed.

The emergency evacuation procedures are displayed, and practised with the children. A stair gate situated at the front door ensures children's safety. The staff have a clear understanding of the procedure to follow should they have concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Most children appeared happy and settled at the playgroup. They have friendly relationships with the staff, which enables them to approach them and seek comfort and support when needed. The staff team plan the activities they provide, however activities are very adult lead and do not allow for children to use their own imagination. The planning is based on the foundation stage guidance, but is not

offering a suitable challenge for the older children. There is a full range of well maintained resources which are used to interest and develop the children, an example of this is the children being able to access a computer. The children are able to choose how they enjoy their time, for example some children enjoy painting, others playing with construction sets and sharing books with the staff.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel a sense of belonging at the playgroup, and their individual needs are well met at the setting. Children are kept busy and happily involved in their play and most play co-operatively together, for example sharing and taking turns. Age appropriate strategies are used for dealing with unwanted behaviour. The staff provide a range of resources to promote images of ethnicity, disability, race and gender which help children learn about the wider world. Relationships with parents are friendly and information is shared daily at the end of the session. Information and policies about the playgroup are given to parents in the form of a leaflet.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children benefit from a consistent staff group who have a suitable knowledge of child care and an understanding of the playgroups policies and procedures. The staff work co-operatively as a team to promote children's health, enjoyment and achievements. Procedures are in place to protect children from unvetted persons. However not all the documents are in place to demonstrate that all staff have undergone checks or have obtained qualifications.

Most of the required documents are accessible and stored confidentially, but are not well organised. An example of this is the operational plan which is basic. Children's needs are met by the effective organisation of space and resources. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the registered person was given four recommendations, the first being to formulate an operational plan. A basic plan is now in place, however due to its content it does not show how staff are deployed or how the continuing training needs of the staff will be met. Written procedures are now in place in the event of a child being lost or uncollected. There is evidence that some staff have been submitted to a vetting check, but this information is not available for all staff. An information leaflet is now provided for parents and includes information about the playgroups behaviour policy.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure the planning provided meets all children's individual needs
- ensure the children can access the necessary facilities to develop their physical skills and abilities
- ensure that evidence is available for inspection demonstrating staff's suitability and their qualifications.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk