

Olivers Lodge-Saffron Walden

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY396540
Inspection date	20/01/2010
Inspector	Emma Bright
Setting address	St. Marys Primary School, Castle Street, SAFFRON WALDEN, Essex, CB10 1BQ
Telephone number	01799 523 384
Email	
Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises

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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.

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Description of the setting

Oliver's Lodge Saffron Walden was registered in 2009. The setting is owned by a private provider and operates from St Mary's primary school in Saffron Walden, Essex. The setting is open five days a week during school term times from 3.15pm to 6.00pm after school. All children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

A maximum of 30 children may attend the setting at any one time; of these no more than 10 may be in the early years group at any one time. There are currently 30 children on roll; of these seven are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The setting is registered on the Early Year Register and both compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The setting employs five staff. Of these, four hold appropriate qualifications and one is currently working towards a qualification.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate.

Children's welfare needs are not effectively promoted because the provider has not ensured that all welfare requirements are met. Risk assessments and some of the required policies and procedures are out-of-date. Security is poor so children are not effectively safeguarded and this means there are three breaches of regulation. The organisation of the provision is currently weak; self-evaluation does not identify significant issues and consequently not enough action is taken to secure improvement. Children enjoy their time at the setting and their learning and development is appropriately supported through a varied range of activities and games. Partnerships with parents are sound.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- ensure that children do not leave the premises unsupervised and take steps to prevent intruders entering the premises (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 26/02/2010
- ensure the risk assessment takes account of outings, outdoor and indoor spaces, furniture, equipment and toys so that they are safe and suitable for purpose. Maintain this record of these particular aspects and when and by whom they have been checked (Suitable) 26/02/2010

- premises, environment and equipment)
- improve systems to ensure that staff are effectively deployed in the setting so that the individual needs of all children are met and they are kept safe (Organisation) 26/02/2010
- develop an effective system for monitoring and evaluating the early years provision in order to maintain continuous improvement, taking into account the views of parents and children (Organisation) 26/02/2010
- maintain records, policies and procedures required for the safe and efficient management of the setting and to meet the needs of the children (Documentation). 26/02/2010

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop further staffs' knowledge and understanding of the areas of the learning and development requirements so that they can confidently support young children effectively.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Arrangements for safeguarding children are inadequate. Children are at risk because the setting is not secure; they can leave the premises unsupervised and intruders are not prevented from entering the premises. Risk assessments are in place, but contain insufficient information to ensure that resources and premises have been checked appropriately, and it does not take outings effectively into account. This puts children's welfare at risk. Staff deployment is ineffective, for example children are left unsupervised in the outdoor area and staff do not effectively work together as a team. Therefore children are at risk of harm and their individual needs are not met.

Although the required documentation is in place, records, policies and procedures have not been effectively updated. This compromises children's safety and affects the safe and efficient management of the setting. All staff have attended child protection training and they have a sound knowledge and understanding of Safeguarding Children procedures. There are suitable procedures in place for the recruitment of new staff. Systems to monitor and evaluate the early years provision are not effective. The opinions and ideas of children, parents and staff have been sought; however, priorities for improvement have not yet been fully identified in order to maintain continuous improvement.

The setting has established a friendly environment where children and parents are made to feel welcome. Staff have developed working relationships with parents and offer verbal feedback each day on children's welfare and their activities. Suitable information is provided to parents about the setting and sound systems are in place for staff to gather information about children's individual care needs. The setting has developed partnership links with the school that children attend in order to suitably foster continuity of children's learning and development.

Adequate systems are in place to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

The setting does not sufficiently promote the welfare of all children because some policies and procedures have not been updated. Risk assessments are not robust enough and staff are not effectively deployed to meet children's needs. Children are cared for in an adequately clean environment; sound hygiene routines followed by the staff and children help to prevent cross-infection. They enjoy opportunities to play outdoors and they benefit from fresh air on their walk from school. Children are learning about the importance of a varied and nutritious diet; they are provided with a range of healthy snacks and they enjoy making their own sandwiches from the selection available. Children generally behave well and staff mostly help them to share and take turns so that they can play happily together.

A sound range of activities is provided for children and this enables them to make satisfactory progress across most areas of learning and development. However, staff do not have a clear enough knowledge and understanding of the EYFS to enable them to effectively support and extend each child's learning in all areas. Satisfactory systems for planning and assessment are in place; parents have opportunities to contribute to their child's records and flexible planning gives children time for individual play.

A range of creative activities encourages children to express themselves and to develop their skills. Their work is displayed in the setting and this helps children to feel valued and it fosters a sense of belonging. Children settle well and show they have warm and friendly relationships with staff. They engage them in conversation and seek out their company, asking them to take part in games. Children are confident communicators and enjoy telling visitors about what they can do. They develop appropriate skills for their future learning as they count, recognise their names and have opportunities to use electronic equipment.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	4
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	4

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	4
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	4
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	4
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	4
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	4
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	4
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	4
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	3

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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:

- ensure that at least one person who is caring for children has an appropriate first aid qualification (Welfare of the children being cared for) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 26/02/2010
- ensure that at least two suitable persons who have attained the age of 18 are present on the premises at all times (Welfare of the children being cared for) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 26/02/2010
- ensure that a child is unable to leave the premises unsupervised (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 26/02/2010
- ensure that no one can enter the premises without the knowledge of a person who is caring for children on the premises (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 26/02/2010
- undertake a risk assessment of the premises and equipment and ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 26/02/2010

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 in the compulsory Childcare Register section of the report (Welfare of the children being cared for) 26/02/2010
- take action as specified in the compulsory Childcare Register section of the report (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment). 26/02/2010