



Stillington Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY308489
Inspection date 30 November 2005
Inspector Christine Snowdon

Setting Address Stillington Primary School, Main Street, Stillington, York, North Yorkshire, YO61 1LA
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Registered person Stillington Under Fives
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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Stillington Pre-School Playgroup was registered at their new site in May 2005. The group is managed by a voluntary committee of parents and operates from a classroom at Stillington Primary School. The school playground is used for outside play. The provision serves the village and local communities.

A maximum of 24 children may attend the setting at any one time, and there are currently 9 children on roll. Their opening times are Wednesdays term time only from 09.30 until 11.45.

The setting employs two staff who hold appropriate early years qualifications. When numbers increase the staff are supported by parents on a rota system.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean environment and some good health and hygiene practices are in place. Children develop a generally good awareness for personal hygiene. They independently wash their hands after toileting using liquid soap and paper towels. However, the arrangements at snack time are unsatisfactory as children use shared water and towels.

Children are learning about healthy food through planned discussions and topics. They benefit from a range of snacks that include fresh fruit on a regular basis. They can choose from either milk, juice or water at snack time and have constant access to drinks throughout the session. Staff encourage children to drink regularly so no one remains thirsty.

Children enjoy the range of physical activities that contributes well to their healthy lifestyle. They develop and test their physical skills through regular indoor and outdoor experiences. Indoors they enthusiastically take turns to crawl and negotiate their way through the tunnel. Children confidently use tools and equipment such as glue spreaders, pencils, rolling pins and cutters. When outdoors they have good opportunities to run around, play with balls and hoops or pedal wheeled toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming setting where risks are identified and minimised through regular checks and risk assessments. Staff effectively maintain good levels of security and ensure collection procedures are followed. They provide a range of resources and activities that are clean and meet the safety standards. However, the unguarded heaters are a hazard to children as they become very hot.

Staff are vigilant about safety matters, supporting and guiding children as they play and use equipment. For example, they remind them not to put small items into their mouths, throw resources, or run in the indoor area. When lighting candles for the birthday cake staff reiterate the danger of matches and why children should not touch them. Children learn about the dangers of traffic and road safety through topic work and discussion.

Children are protected by the staff who have a basic understanding of child protection issues gained through training. They have recently updated their policies and have all the relevant documentation in place with regards to correct procedures to follow should the need arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are very settled and happy at the playgroup. They enter confidently and have very good relationships with the staff who they readily approach for comfort or support. The staff are very caring and considerate and respond warmly to the children, this enhances their emotional well-being.

Children remain happy and engaged for most of the session. They eagerly take part in the planned creative activities where they concentrate well and follow direction. However, there are limited opportunities for spontaneous mark making and free expression craft work. Whilst staff set out a good balance of activities and resources children are unable to self-select and choose additional items. This restricts their independence and decision making skills.

Children show a good interest in books and written words. They choose their own books and spend time looking at pictures and reading to one another. At story time they sit quietly, listen to the story and concentrate well. They recognise their own name card and use it to self-register. Some children are able to write their own name on their artwork and sound out the phonics.

Staff use their time effectively to support children's learning through positive discussion and interaction. For example, whilst assisting children to make animals with the construction links they explain that the baby kangaroo lives inside its mothers pouch and is called a joey.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well due to the staff's consistent approach and effective use of positive praise and encouragement. They have strong and trusting relationships with staff and develop close friendships with their peers. As a result they play very well together, share equipment, take turns and respond appropriately to staff requests. For example, when asked all children help to tidy away the resources and staff thank them for being helpful and for doing a good job.

All children are welcome, valued and respected by staff. Effective systems are in place which staff follow to ensure children's individual needs are well met. Children's awareness of diversity in the wider world is raised through meaningful activities and the provision of resources. For example, they learn about cultures and festivals other than their own such as Diwali and Chinese New Year.

Partnership with parents is good. Children benefit from the positive and friendly relationships between parents and staff. Parents assist the staff with the rota duty when numbers attending increase. Staff record all necessary information from parents and share policies with them prior to children attending. Parents receive regular information through newsletters and notices. Children's progress is shared verbally with parents at each session and they receive a written report at the year

end.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The environment is set up and ready for children's arrival. Staff know their roles and responsibilities and work very well together as a team. Children benefit from the well deployed staff, who consistently interact with them and give them support and encouragement. This helps children feel secure and confident.

The committee and staff have worked together to update the policies and procedures following their move into school premises. However, the recruitment and complaints procedures do not include the recent changes to the national standards. All other documentation is comprehensive and up to date. The staff are committed to furthering their own skills and knowledge and do so by attending training on a regular basis. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints 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.

There are no complaints to report.

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.

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):

- improve hand washing practice with regards to snack time

- ensure heaters are made safe or inaccessible to children
- improve organisation so that children are able to self-select additional resources and activities
- provide more opportunities for children to use their own imagination and choice with regards to creative activities
- update the recruitment and complaints procedures to reflect the changes to the standards.

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