



# Honicknowle Playscheme, After School Club and Pre-School

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 117122

**Inspection date** 20 April 2006

**Inspector** Linda Priest

**Setting Address** Honicknowle Youth and Community Centre, Honicknowle Green,  
Honicknowle, Plymouth, Devon, PL5 3PX

**Telephone number** 01752 216516

**E-mail**

**Registered person** Honicknowle Commnet Ltd

**Type of inspection** Childcare

**Type of care** Out of School care, Crèche

## 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](http://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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Honicknowle Play scheme, After School Club and Crèche operates from the Honicknowle Youth and Community Centre. Honicknowle Commnet Limited Playcare became managers of the setting in 2002, although there were childcare facilities here for many years prior to this. The youth centre is located within a densely populated local authority housing estate and is close to all the local amenities.

The after school club has 22 children on roll and opens five days a week from 15.15 to 18:00 hours, during term time only. The play scheme has a variable number of children on roll. It operates during most school holidays on Wednesday, Thursday

and Friday from 10:00 to 15:00 hours. It is not open during the Christmas holiday. The crèche is a new facility and operates when necessary to support occasional parent workshops and training courses held in the centre. Each group is able to support children with special needs.

There is a core staff team of 10, plus regular volunteers. The person in charge of each group is qualified to level 3 in early years childcare or play work, or they are working towards this level. Other staff hold similar level 2 or 3 qualifications, or are currently on suitable training courses.

The setting receives support from the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's dietary needs and medical conditions are clearly identified and conscientiously met through completion of records and on-going discussion with parents. Older children with medical conditions, such as asthma, are sensibly encouraged to be responsible for self-monitoring this with support from staff. Written permissions are in place to ensure a child's medical need is met in an emergency. Any minor accident is knowledgeably dealt with as staff have completed a first aid course. Accidents are suitably recorded and the information is shared with parents to ensure they are fully aware of any further care required for their child. Good hygiene and healthy eating are actively promoted by staff, such as asking children "Who has fruit in their packed lunch boxes?" and through activities and wall displays.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into the centre by enthusiastic staff and an interesting selection of activities already planned and set out for them to enjoy. Colourful displays of children's work and information posters and boards brighten the otherwise serviceable building and help to create a more inviting environment for children. A good range of equipment and resources support the interesting activities provided for children, such as: a parachute; bats and balls for group games; a wide selection of art and craft items; dressing up clothes and imaginative play toys; computers and information technology items. Children have access to a good amount of well organised space in a variety of rooms used for different activities and an outdoor play area for more physical games.

Children are kept safe in the youth centre through staff supervision and some sensible systems in place to minimise the risk of injury. For example: a safety gate and portable barrier prevent children freely accessing the entrance door and another restricts the exit from the main hall used; fire doors have alarms to alert staff if they are opened in error; risk assessments are in place and used to guide staff care of children. However, at times the main exit door is not routinely supervised and

secured to prevent children leaving or unwelcome visitors gaining access to the centre, placing children at risk of harm. Risk assessments have identified an alarm is required to improve safety for the door and this is due to be fitted shortly.

Staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures, which means they act in children's best interests and protect them from harm in the event of any concerns. The procedure for this is appropriately shared with parents to keep them fully informed and aware of the setting's commitment to protecting children.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of interesting and well balanced activities that they can freely access such as: art and craft sessions; finding information on the computer; relaxing with a book; joining in group games. They are able to make suggestions for further activities they would like provided including topics for the week, organising the snacks for the after school club or making cards. The current theme of 'Pets' captured children's interests with card making sessions showing their favourite pet; researching information about animals on the internet; making plaster models of animals and finding out about the various pets that visited the centre with their owners one afternoon. The children were fascinated by the hens and a guinea pig with purple hair brought in by one owner and sat enthralled watching the hens walk around the room. Children are able to sit quietly and politely, listening well as the owners describe their pets. They particularly enjoyed the opportunity of stroking some of the pets, especially the very large St. Bernard dog. From the activities provided for this topic children are able to use initiative, ask questions and acquire new knowledge and skills as they learn about the characteristics and care of animals.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are well occupied and this is reflected in their good behaviour. They are encouraged in a positive and constructive way to learn about appropriate behaviour from staff who provide good role models. Children are polite, friendly and respectful of each other, the staff and visitors. They feel a real sense of belonging in the club through their involvement in decision making, self selection of toys or activities and working harmoniously with others as they play. For example, the children devised the club rules, carried out some market research and following a group discussion agreed changes to the rules. The club is particularly good at supporting children with special needs. They are fully included in the setting and play very well with their friends as they all take part in games together. All children are treated with equal respect and have opportunities to explore issues of diversity and the wider community through celebration of different cultures, festivals and foods.

Each child's individual needs are clearly identified and met through a good partnership with parents ensuring they are cared for in a positive way by the club. Clear information is exchanged both formally and informally to help in this process,

including an appropriate complaints procedure to resolve any concerns about the care of children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care needs are clearly identified and well met through suitably organised records and documents that are discussed and completed with parents. Recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are well protected and cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. There is a good staff ratio with some key workers and individual staff time and attention for children to ensure they are happy, settled and enjoy their time in the club. Policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's good health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides care.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

There were two actions from the last inspection; one requiring risk assessments for the hot water and outside play area and the other for improvements to the child protection policy and procedures. Action has been taken to make the hot water safe for children to use and a risk assessment minimises the risks for children's use of the outside play area. The child protection policy and staff training in this area ensures children are protected through prompt action and thorough procedures for referral of concerns.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

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.

## **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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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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):

- make sure entrance doors keep children safe and secure in the setting.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)