



Lakenham Pre School Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	254136
Inspection date	23 September 2005
Inspector	Melanie Calway
Setting Address	Jubilee Community Centre, Long John Hill, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 2EX
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Registered person	Lakenham Pre School Playgroup
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?

Lakenham Pre-school Playgroup registered in 1998. It operates from a large room in a community centre, in an inner city area of Norwich. A maximum of 24 children may attend the setting at any one time. The playgroup is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 09:30 to 11:45, during school term times.

There are currently 27 children from two to under five years on roll. The group does not receive funding for three and four year olds. Children come from the local area. The group currently supports a few children who speak English as an additional language.

The playgroup employs four members of staff. The supervisor has an early years qualification to NVQ level 3 and two staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from the risk of cross infection as there is a clear sickness and medication policy in place. Their medical needs are met as medicines are stored safely and a record of medicine administration is kept. The record does not maintain confidentiality and the policy has not been updated to include details of where medicine is stored. Children can be helped in the event of an emergency, as consent for emergency treatment and advice has been obtained. Children begin to learn about good hygiene practice as they are encouraged to wash their hands after the toilet, using individual paper towels, and are given individual wipes before snack time. However, explanations are not always given as to why they should keep their hands clean. Children can rest on large cushions in the book area if they need to. Opportunities for outside play are limited as the group does not take the children out every day. Children are given opportunities for exercise in the second half of the session when they can play on ride-on toys, a slide, a rocker and sing action songs. Children are offered drinks of milk or juice at snack time. They are not learning about healthy eating as they are offered biscuits and occasionally toast for their snack. Drinking water is available during the session but is not readily accessible to children, as it is stored on a high serving hatch.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment that is made welcoming for them. Staff take care to lay the hall out with a good range of appropriate toys. Children's names are displayed on their coat hooks and on the registration board. Children are able to access toys and equipment freely and staff check all equipment to ensure children's safety is promoted. Children are protected on outings as there is a clear procedure and high ratios are maintained. The inside play area is regularly checked and kept tidy to reduce risks to children and the outside area is always checked before use. The accident book is accurately maintained. There are robust systems in place to ensure that children are not released into the care of unauthorised persons. Children begin to learn how to keep themselves safe as staff remind them of the safety rules and give explanations, for example they are reminded at circle time how to use the slide correctly and not to bump into each other as it might hurt them. Children are protected in the event of a fire as there is a clear evacuation plan but accurate records of fire drills are not kept, so it is not clear when the last drill was held. Children's welfare is safeguarded as staff have a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children and parents are welcomed into the setting and parents feel comfortable, in staying to settle their children in the relaxed atmosphere. Children enter the setting enthusiastically and freely choose from a range of activities laid out for them. They can ask for items of equipment but can not always choose from within activities, for example puzzles are store in a high stacker unit which only adults can access. Most of the children settle in well and reassurance is given to children who have difficulty settling. Staff comfort and distract them until they are ready to join in. Children have opportunities to use their imagination in the home corner, role play and small world play and enjoy playing with construction puzzles and play dough. Staff support children appropriately, helping them to count the numbers of bricks in a tower and in completing jigsaw puzzles. There are limited opportunities for creative or messy play. Children's independence is encouraged as they find their own names on the registration board and pour their own drinks at snack time. Children can choose when to have their snack, which is a pleasant social occasion with adults sitting down and chatting with children. Circle time is used to call out a register, while equipment is changed over. This activity is not sufficiently meaningful to children and some begin to get restless. Parents, staff and children enjoy the song session and join in. Children's self esteem is fostered as they are able to choose songs and sing to the group and are given praise and encouragement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are met as all the necessary records are kept. Children learn to respect each other as children from different backgrounds and cultures are welcomed. The group supports a small number of children who have English as an additional language. Adults take care to learn how to pronounce unfamiliar names correctly and ask parents to supply key words that children use. However resources do not sufficiently reflect the diverse backgrounds of the children attending. Children are given appropriate support in line with their abilities. Children behave well and staff speak to children with affection and respect. Children are reminded of the rules and are given explanations so that they can begin to take responsibility for their behaviour. Their self esteem is fostered as they are given praise and encouragement. Parents are made to feel welcome and reassurance is given to those who are anxious about settling their children. Information about the setting is communicated by means of regular newsletters.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by adults who are suitable to do so. All staff are vetted and checks are going through for a new member of staff. The supervisor has a Level 3 qualification and the assistant supervisor is working towards a recognised

qualification. All staff have current First Aid certificates. Staff are well deployed throughout the session and work well together as a team. An induction procedure is in place for new staff. However there are no arrangements in place for annual staff appraisals, to develop staff and ensure their ongoing suitability. Most of the necessary documentation is in place, although changes in policies, recommended at the last inspection have not been printed and made available to staff and parents. The fire drill record is not up to date and the medication record is not set up to ensure confidentiality. Registration and insurance certificates are displayed for parents to see and some training certificates, although these have not been updated as staff attend more courses. Overall the needs of the children attending are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group was asked to make changes to the medication and complaints policy. This has not been done. They were asked to put a key worker system into place. A key worker system is in place some of the time. They were asked to formalise the arrangements for deputising. This has been done and there is now an assistant supervisor in place. They were also asked to ensure letters of suitability were in place for all staff, which has been done.

Complaints since the last inspection

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):

- promote children's health by offering healthy snacks, giving explanations about how to keep healthy and by making drinking water more accessible to children
- increase children's awareness of and respect for other cultures by developing resources which reflect diversity
- improve documentation by updating policies and making them available to staff and parents, by changing the medication record so that confidentiality is

maintained and by ensuring fire drills are recorded accurately.

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