



Henley Outdoor Playscheme (HOPS)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 134980
Inspection date 31 July 2006
Inspector Margaret Moffat

Setting Address Trinity School, Vicarage Road, Henley-On-Thames,
Oxfordshire, RG9 1HJ
Telephone number 01491 575887
E-mail
Registered person Henley Outdoor Playscheme (HOPS)
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.

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?

Henley Outdoor Play Scheme (HOPS) opened in 1986 and is situated in Trinity School, in Henley. The provision has access to designated areas within the school. There is a crèche attached to the play scheme for use by the play scheme committee members and staff and this is situated in the pre-school building on site. A maximum of 350 may attend the play scheme at any one time and a maximum of 20 children may attend the crèche. The play scheme is opened for five mornings during the school summer holidays from 09.00 until 12.55. The crèche is open on the same days from 08.45 until 13.00. All children have access to a secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 89 children aged from six to under eight years on roll in the play scheme and 11 children under five in the crèche. Children over the age of eight also attend the provision. The provision currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties.

The play scheme employs 38 members of staff and seven volunteers. The crèche employs two members of staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children remain healthy because staff follow appropriate health and hygiene procedures. They discuss and record children's medical and dietary needs with parents. Many of the staff hold first aid certificates and there is a first aid station within the setting, with a designated member of staff within this area at all times. Staff are very clear about the procedures to follow when recording accidents and administration of medication. They act appropriately if a child becomes unwell or injured, for example contacting parents to collect their child. This ensures children's health and welfare are protected. Children play in a relatively clean environment where they learn to follow appropriate hygiene practices, for example, washing their hands before cooking activities. However, some toilet areas are not kept clean to maintain a good level of hygiene for the children at all times.

Children engage in a good range of physical activities that keep them healthy and develop their physical skills. They enjoy running around in the fresh air, playing team games of football and hockey and bouncy castle. They have opportunities to take part in other physical activities, for example, swing boats and climbing wall, which are provided by specialist companies. Younger children have fun and enjoy themselves playing on wheeled toys and climbing in and out of the castle in their enclosed area.

Children can help themselves to a drink whenever they need one and jugs of water and cups are readily available at many of the activities. The staff run a tuck shop for the children where they can purchase assorted snack foods such as crisps and biscuits. Healthy options of various fruits and bread rolls are also available and for a certain part of the session these are all that are on offer. This encourages the children to develop healthy eating practices. Children enjoy having the opportunity to purchase their own snacks and wait patiently in the queue chatting to others about what choices they have made and the activities they have been involved in during their time at the play scheme.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe environment which is well organised and planned to promote their safety and enjoyment. There are risk assessments undertaken both indoors and out that enable staff to identify and quickly

address potential hazards. The premises are secure and there are good procedures in place to prevent unwanted visitors gaining access. Children and adults practise the emergency evacuation procedure, which encourages them to become familiar with the route and safe evacuation of the premises. Children are developing an awareness of how to keep themselves safe through discussions about the rules and using equipment appropriately. For example, in needlework children are aware to put the needles and pins in the pincushion, when they are not using them.

Staff have a generally good knowledge of child protection issues and the procedures to follow if concerned about a child. However, unvetted adults from outside companies are not directly supervised at all times, which compromises children's safety.

Children benefit from playing in an organised environment where maps of the setting and lists of the activities available are clearly displayed to allow them to make their own choices about what they wish to do. Adults are on hand to direct the children to various areas if they get lost. There is a good range of resources and activities available, which is appropriate to the age and stage of development of the children attending.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy and settled within the play scheme and crèche. They settle quickly on arrival and are eager to participate in the activities on offer. Children enjoy their time during the session and have opportunities to choose from an excellent range of activities to maintain their interests throughout the morning. This includes time for them to be active, quiet or just sit chatting to friends enjoying drinks and snacks. Children relate well to each other and the adults who care for them. They receive consistent support and meaningful praise which builds their self-esteem and encourages them to be independent.

Staff organise and plan an excellent variety of activities for the children to be involved in. There is substantial resources and equipment for the number of children in attendance. Some of the activities only accommodate a certain number of children at any one time and are therefore in sessions. Children are responsible for putting their names on the board and ensuring they are at the activity for the allocated time. Children are eager to get started as they sit patiently outside the rooms where these activities are taking place and are happy to chat to one another as they wait for the session to begin. Staff use effective explanation techniques and encourage the children to do things for themselves. For example, in woodwork, staff hold the bench for the children and explain to them how to use the vice to hold the wood in place for cutting, allowing them to complete task on their own. Children have opportunities to utilise the activities as they wish. For example, children make items in woodwork such as shields or cut out shape of a country and they can take this to the art room and paint it. Children are encouraged to use their imagination and express their ideas in a variety of ways, such as making pots with clay, needle work and creating their own designs in art and craft activities. Children enjoy participating in the music

sessions. They have the opportunity to explore sound and musical instruments and they show delight when they make their own sounds within the group. Children confidently approach adults for help if they need it. For example, a child writing the word 'Africa' on his wooden shape, seeking reassurance from an adult as he sounds out the letters. Children readily engage in conversations with adults and inform them what they have been doing and what they plan to do next. Children actively make the most of their time in the provision and acquire new knowledge and skills through the interesting range of activities offered.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and treated with respect helping them to feel secure and good about themselves. Staff have a sound understanding of equal opportunity issues and a positive attitude towards diversity. Children have opportunities to work with older members of the community as they volunteer to come into the provision and help children develop skills for example in needlework. Topics such as other countries and activities linked to their cultures help children gain an understanding of the wider world. There are effective procedures in place to support children with learning difficulties.

Children behave very well. They are polite and kind to each other and show co-operation with others in their environment. They wait patiently for their turn in the tuck shop queue and outside rooms as they wait to go in for the next session. They calmly evacuate the building during the emergency evacuation, follow instructions given by staff and assemble in field where they stand in orderly lines as the register is called.

Parents receive good information about the provision through fact sheets and notice boards. The policies and procedures are readily available and ensures they are fully informed about the club and their child's care. Staff gather and record relevant information about the children, ensuring their individual needs are met. Parents feel welcome and staff encourage them to help out during the sessions as volunteers. Parents report they enjoy the opportunity to be involved in their children's activities within the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The premises are well organised. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children and they freely choose the activities they wish to be involved in from the excellent range on offer. Staff support children well and understand their roles and responsibilities. There is a good induction programme to ensure they are aware of the procedures to follow to maintain children's safety and welfare within the play scheme and crèche.

All legally required policies, procedures and documentation which contributes to

children's well-being and safety are in place. However, some policies need updating to ensure they contain the correct information. The management committee are committed to the continuous improvement and development of the provision. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provision were asked to update children's records, review fire drill and risk assessments and ensure adults having unsupervised access to children are suitable to do so. The provision have written risk assessments in place, children are reminded daily of the emergency evacuation procedure. Children's records have been updated and relevant information is recorded to ensure they receive appropriate care. This has a positive impact on children's safety and welfare.

Although volunteers and parents are not left unsupervised with the children, this does not always apply to adults providing activities from outside companies. This does not ensure children remain safe at all times and remains a recommendation for this inspection.

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.

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):

- maintain an appropriate level of hygiene in toilet areas
- ensure all persons who have access to the children and are not vetted are supervised at all times
- ensure all policies and procedures are updated and contain the correct information.

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