



Foxhill

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY245773
Inspection date	10 April 2006
Inspector	Sue Vernon
Setting Address	Foxhill Community Centre, Hawthorn Grove, Foxhill, Bath, Avon, BA2 5QA
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	Bath Area Play Project
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School 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?

Foxhill Open Access Holiday Play Scheme was registered in 1990. It operates from one room and an outside area in the community centre in the Foxhill district of Bath. The group serves the local area and is one of several holiday play schemes run by the Bath Area Play Project around the city.

There are 68 children on roll for the Easter sessions and around 200 children during the summer sessions. The group accepts 30 children aged between 5 years and 8 years in any one session. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The group opens for 1-2 weeks at Easter and 3-4 weeks in August. Sessions are from 10.00 to 12.30 and 14.00 to 16.00. There are 4 staff work with the children, 2 of whom have early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Staff plan interesting activities in order to promote healthy eating with the children. At snack time, children enjoy a range of fresh fruit to buy as well as toast. Children enjoy making their own fresh fruit drinks using a blender and fruit kebabs to eat. Drinking water is offered and children help themselves, particularly when thirsty after outdoor activities. Staff collect information from parents and know of any special dietary requirements which are supported effectively. This ensures children's individual needs are met.

Children benefit from a wide range of outdoor play opportunities. They make dens and swings from fabric and ropes and enjoy playing ball games. The group plan and provide additional opportunities for children to have fun whilst developing their physical skills, for example with a bouncy castle and trampolining.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The hall is prepared with art and craft activities before the children arrive which ensures they move smoothly into play. Risk assessments are used to minimise risks to children both in the indoor and outdoor play environment. However not all are in place for activities brought onto the site by other providers which compromises supervision issues. Fire safety is addressed effectively and appropriate equipment is in place. Children practise fire evacuations regularly so are familiar with the routine which promotes their safety well. Staff help children develop an understanding of managing their own safety, such as reminding them how many children are allowed on the bouncy castle together. The staff have a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues and the required procedures to be followed if any concerns arise. This supports children's well being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a satisfactory range of play activities. They are involved in arts and craft work as well as outdoor play with bats and balls. Staff ensure the play opportunities offer children a balance between child-led play, such as making dens outside and adult-led play such as cooking chocolate nests. Children get engrossed in creative play with a wide selection of craft and art resources. Staff offer positive praise and encouragement which extends children's play ideas, such as helping a

child persist building towers with sticks and string. Extra opportunities for outdoor play are planned with outings to adventure farms, exploring in the woods and visits to the city farm. This extends children's experience of their environment and their enjoyment of playing outside. Children independently choose activities and resources though sometimes the selection is not extensive. This leads to some children not being fully involved. Staff and children have warm relationships which help children feel secure. Children enjoy praise and reassurance from staff members who value children's efforts. They give praise for children's creations which builds children's self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The staff ensure they are aware of any individual medical or dietary needs, for example allergies. This helps children feel secure. All children, regardless of gender or ability are supported in enjoying the play opportunities which helps them feel valued. Staff have a positive approach to promoting good behaviour. Children discuss their own guidelines for acceptable behaviour and display them on the wall for reference. This helps children feel involved in managing their own behaviour. Staff are good role models for the children. They are patient, polite and friendly even when dealing with potentially disruptive older children visiting the site. Clear procedures are in place to give information to parents about the play scheme. Staff collect the appropriate permissions, for example for outings and also information about children's needs. Parents or carers are greeted warmly, all of which helps build sound relationships and supports consistency of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff organise the space satisfactorily in order to meet children's play needs. For example resources for imaginative construction are available outside and tables are prepared with a variety of craft resources indoors. Staff extend their knowledge through attending training and workshops. They work well together to plan the activity sessions.

The leader is suitably qualified in play work and has first aid training which supports children's well being. Staff know the policies and procedures which are in place. This promotes consistency within the staff team, though some policy details are not up-to-date. Records, such as those relating to accidents are shared appropriately with parents. All information and documents are stored carefully, with regard for confidentiality. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the group was asked to assess the safety of windows opening

across the disabled access outside. This has now been included in the risk assessment and staff closely monitor safety when windows are opened.

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 records 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 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):

- ensure all activities are risk assessed and appropriately supervised
- ensure children have access to a full range of play resources
- ensure all records and policies such as the complaints policy and register are complete and up to date

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