

Headcorn Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector

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Setting address

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Type of setting

Childcare on non-domestic premises

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Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the setting

Headcorn Playscheme is controlled by Headcorn Parish Council and Maidstone Borough Council. It opened in the 1980s and was registered in 1996. It operates from part of the local school premises, including the hall and an outside play area, during three weeks of the summer holidays. It operates from 9.30am to 12.30pm daily. It is registered to accept a maximum of 90 children at any one time, no more than 40 of which may be in the early years age range. There are currently 156 children on roll. Ten full-time staff work with the children. Two are qualified teachers and one is a nursery manager. One member of staff is training for a level 2 qualification.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The overall effectiveness of the holiday playscheme is good; it meets the needs of all children well and has a good capacity for further improvement. The manager and team of play workers are highly organised and provide a rich learning environment in which children thrive. The indoor and outdoor provision offers a wide range of interesting activities that children can choose, promoting their independence and social development. The playscheme is popular and well attended. The excellent partnership with the parish and town councils enhance the provision and parents are united in their view that it offers high quality activities to the children of the village

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that at least half the staff hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification (as defined by the Children's Workforce Development Council) (Suitable People). 31/07/2011

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- increase the proportion of healthy food offered through the tuck shop, and promote healthy choices
- improve children's mathematical development and increase opportunities for them to engage in weighing and measuring activities.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The leadership and management is satisfactory. Although leaders are embedding ambition and driving improvement enthusiastically and ensuring that children are safe, nurtured and engaged, there are not enough properly qualified staff and this does not meet statutory requirements. Effective teamwork is leading to a busy, active and highly organised environment in which children's well-being and learning are paramount. Children know that they are safe and valued while parents express confidence in the leaders' commitment to the security of the children in their care. Since the last inspection, robust steps have been taken to increase staff awareness of child protection procedures and good systems exist for their training and development. There are good systems for keeping children safe; the site is secure and staff are appropriately deployed. Risk assessments are suitable, and accidents and incidents are rigorously recorded.

At the last inspection the playscheme was asked to increase resources to promote equal opportunities and this has been effectively addressed so that inclusion and diversity are promoted well. The excellent partnerships with the parish and borough councils enrich children's experience; the borough through providing specialist instruction and the parish through its strategic and practical involvement. The manager has led the process of self-evaluation so that the playscheme has a clear understanding of what it does well with plans for further development. However, the impact is limited by the lack of suitably qualified staff. The parish council is a key partner in this process, supporting and promoting the playscheme. It provides financial backing and, through the frequent attendance of the chair and other councillors, gives practical help to the leaders. The setting has satisfactory capacity for further improvement.

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage are allocated a key person who oversees their learning and development and is a point of contact for parents. The good engagement with all parents and carers is reflected in the way their views are sought and valued. They speak positively about the playscheme.

The playscheme is very well equipped, with large resources and small apparatus. They are deployed highly effectively and very good use is made of the school's facilities so that children may choose from a wide range of interesting games and projects. A wealth of consumable material supports the many creative and making activities available and children proudly show their parents things they have made. Good use is made of visitors to provide culturally diverse activities such as drumming, dancing and physical activities such as football. Other activities, such as the learning importance of recycling, develop children's knowledge and understanding of the world.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

The provision for all children is good because their well-being is paramount and there are good opportunities for them to learn through play. The promotion of healthy living is satisfactory. There are many good opportunities to engage in games and other physical activities and care is taken to provide a daily activity linked to healthy eating. However, the popular tuck shop sells too great a proportion of highly coloured and sugary sweets. This gives the wrong message to children about what is healthy food. There are healthy options available but they are not clearly enough displayed or sufficiently well promoted. Children know they are safe and the rules they negotiate include good systems for keeping them secure. The very good relationships between and among adults and children is reflected in the good behaviour and sense of emotional security that characterises the playscheme. This ensures that children settle in quickly and are ready to learn. Children delight in the many fun activities available for them and there is an overwhelming sense of excitement and enjoyment. The adults support all children and guide the younger children particularly well so that their development is promoted and their learning advanced through their play.

Because this is a holiday playscheme there staff do not assess children's progress. However, careful planning ensures that the activities which the setting provides cover each of the areas of learning. A strength of the provision is the good way in which all adults engage children in conversation, which contributes to their language development and the opportunities they take, when children buy items from the tuck shop, to promote calculation. However, there are not enough opportunities for children to weigh and measure. This means that valuable opportunities to reinforce number skills are lost. The wide choice of activities promotes children's independence well. Children of all ages play well together and these high levels of cooperation and good behaviour help the playscheme to operate smoothly and happily. Adults constantly promote learning through their conversations with children and all enjoy the final session at which success is celebrated. This focus on enjoyment and learning combines with good social development to ensure that children develop skills that will help them in their future progress.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	1
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	2

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- ensure that at least half the persons caring for children have completed a qualification at a minimum of level 2 in a relevant area of work (Qualifications and Training) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 19/11/2010

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the Childcare section of the report (Qualifications and Training). 19/11/2010