

# Harpenden Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique reference number** EY339731  
**Inspection date** 15/03/2012  
**Inspector** Lynne Talbot

**Setting address** The Grove Infant & Nursery School, Dark Lane,  
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**Type of setting** Childcare - Non-Domestic

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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.

There were no children on roll when this inspection took place. The findings in this report are based on evidence gathered from discussions with those who care for the children and an inspection of the premises, equipment and relevant documentation. Where there are no children on roll, no judgement is made on the quality of the early years provision as there is no reliable evidence on which to assess its impact on children. The report states if the provider continues to meet the requirements of registration.

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

Harpenden Play Scheme is one of eight Special Needs Activities and Play (SNAP) Hertfordshire Ltd play schemes, a registered charity managed by a board of trustees. It registered in December 2006 and operates from the main hall and a classroom at The Grove School, Harpenden, Hertfordshire. The scheme, when operating, is open each weekday for four weeks in the summer holidays from 10am to 3pm and for limited days during the Christmas and Easter holidays. There is access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

A maximum of 12 children under eight may attend the play scheme at any one time, although it is open to children and adults up to age of 19 years. The scheme supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language. Harpenden Play Scheme employs sufficient members of staff to meet and exceed the required ratio of qualified staff. At the time of this inspection, there were no children on roll in the early years age group.

## The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The provider demonstrates through discussion and documentation, a very good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The provider understands about planning for children's learning and the procedures for observation and assessment and monitoring progress. The provider identifies the next steps in children's learning by tracking and recording their development. The provider involves parents and the other settings that children attend in the planned learning. Detailed personal care plans are developed using information gleaned about children prior to the play scheme during visits to the home and the school attended. This ensures that they are able to build on what children already know or achieve and that planned learning addresses the same goals. The provider plans a very broad range of activities, indoors, outside and during excursions, which means children enjoy a good range of experiences. Consequently, children are supported in making good progress towards the early learning goals given their starting points.

The provider demonstrated through discussion robust understanding of what to do if there are any safeguarding concerns regarding a child. Detailed policies and procedures for safeguarding are shared with parents and include the action to take, telephone numbers of whom to contact and the system for recording any action taken. The premises are safe and secure, with daily health and safety checklists completed and reviewed. Monitoring of those assessments by the management as well as detailed risk assessments for the premises and every outing ensures safety for children. Individual assessments of risk for every child attending further ensure well-being.

The provider demonstrated an excellent understanding of the importance of developing partnership with parents, carers and others to meet children's individual needs. Processes for managing children's behaviour are in place and the provider has a very good knowledge and awareness of the importance of treating each child

with equal respect and concern. The provider implements a broad range of policies and procedures to share with parents to demonstrate how they meet the welfare requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage. All policies and documentation, as required by the statutory framework, are in place. All required training is completed by staff, such as, first aid and safeguarding. In-house training, induction for new staff, and reviews for staff prior to each play scheme ensure that practice is of a good standard. The provider fully understands the importance of inclusion for all children and the provision works closely with multi-agency groups to support children. The provision ensures that ratios exceed the required levels to fully meet the complex needs of children attending. The provider offers clear information to parents to help them to prepare and provide nutritious packed lunches for children to enjoy at the play scheme.

Quality improvement processes are considered. The provider evaluates the provision regularly. For example, staff members working at the play scheme, and parents, complete feedback evaluation sheets after every scheme ends. The managers use this feedback to review and plan for future activities. The provider has addressed recommendations raised at the last inspection appropriately. The provider continues to seek information pertaining to the care of children within the Early Years Foundation Stage and updates their practice accordingly, demonstrating a capacity to improve and continuous development.

## **Compliance with registration requirements**

The registered person continues to meet the requirements of registration.

## **Annex B: the Childcare Register**

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

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