

# Inspection report for Hawksworth Wood Children's Centre

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Local authority	Leeds
Inspection number	383954
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Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
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Linked school if applicable	Hawksworth Wood Primary School 107893
Linked early years and childcare, if applicable	Hawksworth Wood Children's Centre Daycare EY313604

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## Introduction

The inspection addresses the centre's contribution to:

- facilitating access to early childhood services by parents, prospective parents and young children
- maximising the benefit of those services to parents, prospective parents and young children
- improving the well-being of young children.

The report is made to the local authority and a copy is sent to the children's centre. The local authority may send the report to such persons it considers appropriate and must arrange for an action plan to be produced in relation to the findings in this report.

An inspection of the registered early years/childcare provision was carried out at the same time as the inspection of the centre under Section 49 of the Childcare Act 2006. The report of this inspection is available on our website [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

This inspection was carried out by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors and an early years inspector. The inspectors held meetings with parents, centre staff and representatives from professional partnerships, the advisory board and the local authority. They observed the centre's work and looked at a range of relevant documentation.

## Information about the centre

Hawksworth Wood Children's Centre is situated on the site of Hawksworth Wood Primary School, in a large housing estate in Kirkstall, a suburb of Leeds. The centre was designated in October 2005 and is a phase one children's centre.

The centre serves families living in one of the 3% to 25% most deprived areas in the country. The majority of families are of White British heritage, with approximately one third of families from minority ethnic groups including Eastern European, African and Asian communities, some of whom are economic migrants and asylum seekers. For some of these families, English is an additional language with 21 different home languages spoken in the area.

Families may face issues of poor housing, unemployment, financial problems, domestic violence and drugs and alcohol misuse. Approximately 24% of the reach area population are living in households dependent on workless benefits. There are approximately 120 lone parents in receipt of benefits. On average 20% of families benefit from the childcare element of working tax credit.

Almost half of all children enter early years provision with skills below those typically expected for their age, particularly in relation to communication, language and literacy and personal, social and emotional development. Ninety-nine per cent of three- and four-year-olds are accessing their early education entitlement.

The centre is governed by the local authority and has an advisory board made up of representatives from the local community, parents and partner professionals. The centre also holds parent forums.

## Inspection judgements

**Grades: 1 is outstanding, 2 is good, 3 is satisfactory, and 4 is inadequate**

### Overall effectiveness

**The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for families**

<b>2</b>
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### Capacity for sustained improvement

**The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management**

<b>2</b>
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## Main findings

Hawksworth Wood Children's Centre is a good centre overall with several outstanding features. The senior leadership team and centre staff are passionate about the centre's work and morale is high. The centre leader has successfully established exceptional partnership working arrangements with a wide range of professionals ensuring services are well integrated and cohesive. In addition, information is shared appropriately and swiftly between partners. This ensures the correct support and intervention are provided to very effectively safeguard and meet the needs of the very large majority of families. The services and activities and care, guidance and support provided by the centre to improve the outcomes for children and their families are exceptional. As one parent whose views are representative of many states, 'If it wasn't for the centre I wouldn't be where I am today. I feel on top of the world. I'll always be grateful'. Provision is accurately matched to the needs of families and enables and empowers them to achieve good and sometimes excellent outcomes. As a result, participation rates for most groups, including those identified by the centre as most in need of intervention and support, are excellent and users reflect the diverse community the centre serves. This ensures the centre provides outstanding value for money.

The centre is particularly effective in keeping users safe and protected and in partnership with other professionals has significantly contributed to the area becoming a considerably safer place for families to live. The centre exemplifies high-quality safeguarding practice. All

staff and partners give the highest priority to safeguarding all children and families. Their safety and well-being are significantly enhanced by the robust and consistent implementation of effective policies, procedures and practice.

Children make exceptional progress from their starting points, enjoy their time at the centre, and are extremely well prepared for transition to school. As a result, the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage and the rest has significantly reduced.

The centre meaningfully seeks the views of families using the centre and effectively uses these to shape services, including users' evaluations of the effectiveness of the provision. However, despite active encouragement by the centre only a small minority of parents are contributing to the decision making and governance of the centre through attending advisory board meetings and parent forums.

Most families using the centre develop their personal skills, particularly their parenting skills, and demonstrate extremely secure improvements. Those accessing the activities and services to develop their employability skills, including the volunteer programme, make at least good progress and achieve ambitious goals. However, only a small minority of families using the centre are accessing these excellent opportunities and progressing to training, education and employment to further develop their economic and social well-being.

The centre's leadership and management team evaluates the centre's effectiveness well and is consequently aware of the centre's strengths and weaknesses. It, together with strategic management and the support of the local authority, sets ambitious and appropriate priority targets. However, not all targets are precise enough to fully measure when the centre has been successful. The centre has good capacity to improve further based on what it has accomplished so far.

## **What does the centre need to do to improve further?**

### **Recommendations for further improvement**

- Encourage more families to make a greater contribution to the decision making and governance of the centre through membership on the advisory board and parent forums.
- Encourage more families to access opportunities to develop their employability skills and progress to training, education and employment to further improve their economic and social well-being.
- Refine action plans by ensuring all targets for improvement are precise, measurable and have clear success criteria.

## **How good are outcomes for families?**

<b>2</b>
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Exceptional partnership working and the extremely effective systems for assessing users' needs, making referrals and intervening early are having a very positive impact on outcomes

for children, including those subject to Common Assessment Framework (CAF) processes, looked-after children and children subject to a child protection plan. Staff intervene swiftly to support families and as a result the centre, in partnership with professionals, has dramatically reduced the number of children needing child protection plans and preventing situations from reaching crisis point. Families are much safer in their homes and their community. This is as a result of the speedy intervention and partnership work undertaken to prevent accidents and incidents and to significantly improve community cohesion. For example, there have been no reported road traffic accidents or house fires and fewer accidents in the home. In addition, racially aggravated incidents are now extremely scarce and families of different heritage get along well together.

A very large majority of families in the area are engaged well with a good range of appropriate health services ensuring families are achieving good healthy outcomes. The centre provides much valued and highly utilised healthy cooking courses and healthy lifestyles programmes, and all families using the centre have signed up to the 'Change 4 Life' government initiative. This has led to reductions in childhood obesity and improvements in family's diet and lifestyles. Families are increasingly aware of the importance of healthy lifestyles and this can be seen in their expressions of interest for more fitness activities. The take-up rates of mothers breastfeeding are high and a good proportion of them sustain breastfeeding at six to eight weeks and these are improving year-on-year. The well-utilised 'Baby Group' supports new parents well. A high number of children have received their immunisations and some have accessed vitamin supplements.

Excellent information, advice and guidance are provided to parents regarding childcare options, financial issues, benefits and tax credits, thus improving their economic stability and independence. Families using the centre and the wider community treat each other with respect. Most families using the centre regularly express their views and contribute to shaping services. However, only a small minority of parents are engaged in bringing a positive contribution to the governance of the centre.

Thorough monitoring of children's development and subsequent intervention and provision, ensures all children make the maximum progress in their learning and development. Schools report that children arrive ready to learn and are confident and independent. Excellent transition arrangements and partnership working are embedded and ensure the continuity of care, learning and development of all children. Parents highly value the 'Share Group' delivered in partnership with the centre and the school. This successfully builds parents' confidence regarding their child's transition to school and how they can continue to support their child's progress. Staff have fully involved most parents in their child's learning and development, seen by their regular contributions to their child's development files. Parents are also supported exceptionally well in developing their parenting skills to promote their child's play, development and learning at home and how to recognise achievements and developmental milestones. This has had an extremely positive impact on family relationships and children's progress. Almost all three- and four-year-old children are accessing their free nursery education entitlement and the most vulnerable two-year-olds are accessing 15 hours of childcare a week through the government funded two-year-old nursery pilot. Early years settings are extremely well supported by the centre teacher to develop their quality,

ensuring that all children have access to good quality provision. As a result, the large majority of children achieve 78 points in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile.

These are the grades for the outcomes for families:

<b>The extent to which children, including those from target groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which all children and parents, including those from target groups, enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which children engage in positive behaviour and develop positive relationships, and parents, including those from target groups, contribute to decision-making and governance of the centre</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents, including those from target groups, are developing economic stability and independence including access to training and employment.</b>	<b>2</b>

## **How good is the provision?**

<b>1</b>
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Overall, provision is outstanding. Staff are highly skilled at identifying the needs of families. They intervene early to ensure families receive the personalised support they need to improve their outcomes and prevent situations reaching crisis point. Extremely strong partnership working and correct identification of the make-up of the reach area ensure the centre is supporting a very large majority of families identified as in most need of support and intervention and from their target groups. The centre has been particularly successful in engaging with and improving the outcomes for families from the most deprived areas, all teenage mothers and many teenage fathers, almost all children, a high number of fathers and a large majority of families from minority ethnic groups. The services and activities for most of the centre's identified target groups are excellent, resulting in high user satisfaction and participation. Parents express unanimously that they receive excellent support that meets their needs well, demonstrated by the following comments; 'Staff have been really kind and supportive. I couldn't have chosen a more safe and loving place to bring my baby'. 'The centre provides a nurturing and safe environment'. 'Staff are very approachable', and, 'you feel you're not alone'.

The multicultural 'Women's Group' successfully achieves its aim to build users self-esteem and confidence and empowers them to develop personally and improve their skills. Those for whom English is an additional language are very well supported to develop their English skills to a range of levels to suit their abilities and needs. A wide range of high quality information, advice and guidance is provided through activities and services within the centre and through the intensive outreach support provided to families in their homes. In addition, excellent links with other services ensure families access the wide range of support and activities available in the area. However, despite a very good range of family and adult

learning opportunities provided by the centre, fewer parents are accessing these opportunities.

These are the grades for the quality of provision:

<b>The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of families, including those in target groups</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all families, including those in target groups</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, including those in target groups.</b>	<b>1</b>

## **How effective are the leadership and management?**

<b>2</b>
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Partners state staff care greatly about the community and their families and are passionate about making a difference to their outcomes and future life chances. The centre leader takes every opportunity to develop partnerships with a wide range of services and professionals and is highly regarded by all partners stating, 'she is an outstanding leader'. This has resulted in a variety of partnership activities and services being delivered and a vast collective knowledge of the issues and needs of the community. This greatly enhances the well-being and outcomes for families. As one partner stated, 'The centre has helped us to do our job more effectively, get information quicker and intervene and support families earlier'.

The centre plays a significant role in the life of the community and is successfully promoting tolerance and understanding of different minority ethnic groups. Families have increased pride in their community and care about their environment. They have worked well with professionals to improve the area making it a safer and nicer place to live. The inclusion of all families is promoted very effectively and the centre has truly established itself at the heart of the community. Provision and services are well used and engage the very large majority of families in the reach area, often those identified as most vulnerable. As a result, outcomes for these families are significantly improving and are at least good and sometimes outstanding.

There are good self-evaluation procedures in place that are embedded in practice, confirmed by users who state, 'there are very good evaluations of sessions'. These are meaningfully used to improve and develop services and activities. The centre has a 'Question of the week' posted in all areas of the centre and actively encourages families to answer these in order to inform service delivery and target support, advice and guidance accordingly. For example 'Do you smoke?' 'Would you like help to stop smoking?' Managers have a good understanding of the strengths in provision and outcomes and where further improvements can be made. The centre's priorities for improvement are appropriate, challenging and realistic although some lack precise enough detail for the centre to be able to fully measure their success.



Safer recruitment procedures are stringently followed and all relevant checks are made to ensure that all staff are suitable and safe to work with children. All staff receive high-quality child protection training and are extremely confident in their role to safeguard children. Protocols and practices for sharing information between agencies are exemplary. Risks are thoroughly assessed and minimised ensuring the environment is extremely safe. Very good professional supervision and management arrangements are in place to monitor the performance of staff and ensure their safety, well-being and professional development. Staff are very effectively deployed and the centre leader delegates responsibilities extremely well. Staff work exceptionally well together as a team, supporting one another professionally and feel valued. Students from local colleges and universities highly value placement opportunities at the centre and state, 'they feel part of a team', 'have every opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge', and, 'staff go above and beyond what is expected to support our professional development'.

These are the grades for leadership and management:

<b>The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day-to-day management arrangements are clear and understood</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secures improvement in outcomes</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of families, including those in target groups</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which partnerships with other agencies ensure the integrated delivery of the range of services provided by the centre to meet its core purpose</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which the centre supports and encourages families in the reach area to engage with services and uses their views to develop the range of provision.</b>	<b>2</b>

## **Any other information used to inform the judgements made during this inspection**

The findings from the concurrent inspection of the children's centre's early years provision and the most recent inspection of Hawksworth Wood Primary School located on the same site as the children's centre were used to inform the judgements made during this inspection.

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## Summary for centre users

We inspected Hawksworth Wood Children's Centre on 28 and 29 March 2012. We judged the centre as good overall with several outstanding features.

Thank you to those of you who contributed to the inspection. Like you we found your children's centre to be welcoming and friendly. Staff are enthusiastic and committed to improving the outcomes for your families. Your centre has successfully established extremely strong partnerships with a wide range of professionals and services which has had a significant impact on the well-being and outcomes for your families. They regularly share information and make sure they work very well together to provide your families with all the support they need as quickly as possible.

You are accessing a good range of health services and the good health of your families is improving as a result. You and your children are extremely safe when using the centre and staff are swift to intervene early with any safeguarding concerns to ensure children are safe and families are fully supported. Your centre has helped you make your homes and community safer and the different groups in your community get along well together. You have an increased pride in your area and by working with the centre and other professionals you have made it a nicer and safer place to live.

Provision to help your children learn and develop is exceptional. You are developing your parenting skills and as a result are helping enable your children to make outstanding progress. This is due to the exemplary support your centre provides to develop your understanding of how to recognise and support your child's learning and development at home. You value the excellent opportunities provided by your centre and schools to support your child's transition to school which ensures they arrive ready to learn, are confident and independent. You have access to very good opportunities to develop your employability skills, embark on training and find suitable employment. Although a minority of parents are accessing these opportunities, progressing into training and employment and achieving ambitious goals, we feel this could be better.

Your centre knows the needs of your community exceptionally well. Staff work very effectively with other professionals and actively seek your views to ensure the services they provide meet the needs of your families. Your centre has been extremely successful in engaging the very large majority of families from your community to access the centre and services, particularly those identified as most vulnerable or in most need of support. As a result, your feedback shows that the vast majority of you are satisfied with the services your children's centre provides and attendance is generally very high. However, not enough of

you are contributing to the decision making and governance of the centre through attending advisory board meetings and parent forums. Your centre has been asked to improve this.

You centre provides your families with exceptional care, guidance and support particularly when you are facing times of crisis, with outstanding results. You expressed unanimously that you receive excellent support, as some of you told us, 'If it wasn't for the centre I wouldn't be where I am today. I feel on top of the world. I'll always be grateful'. 'Staff have been really kind and supportive. I couldn't have chosen a more safe and loving place to bring my baby'. 'The centre provides a nurturing and safe environment'. 'Staff are very approachable', and, 'you feel you're not alone'.

Your centre strives to be better and is always looking for ways to improve to ensure it is having the biggest impact on improving outcomes for you and your families. Your centre has clear plans for improvement in place. We have asked your centre to use the information available to more effectively measure their success. Your children's centre has a good capacity to improve further the outcomes for families living in your community and to continue to narrow the gap between the most disadvantaged and the rest. It does so with great determination and dedication. We wish you all the very best for the future.

The full report is available from your centre or on our website [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).