

Headcorn Playscheme

Headcorn CP School, Kings Road, Headcorn, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9QT



Inspection date	29 July 2015
Previous inspection date	29 July 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Inadequate	4
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Inadequate	4
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The provider has failed to notify Ofsted of a change to the manager. This is a breach of requirements of the Early Years register and the Childcare Register. Ofsted does not intend to take further action on this occasion.
- Staff do not know enough about the play scheme's safeguarding procedures and there is no written safeguarding policy for their reference. The provider does not consistently implement secure systems for the recruitment and vetting of all new staff. These weaknesses put children at risk and are a breach of the Childcare Register.
- The provider does not keep all records on site. Consequently, some records are not easily accessible and available for inspection at all times.
- Managers do not guide staff in making improvements in their practice to support children effectively.
- Staff do not always support and encourage children to join in with activities.
- Managers do not monitor the quality of the provision sufficiently well to be able to identify all areas that require improvement.

It has the following strengths

- Staff establish friendly relationships with children. As a result, children are confident, enjoy attending and quickly develop friendships with others.
- Children are able to make choices about what they want to do at the play scheme.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- implement effective systems for recruitment and vetting of all staff to ensure that people working with children are suitable
- develop staff knowledge of the safeguarding procedures and the action to be taken in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff and ensure this is referred to in the written safeguarding policy and procedures
- ensure that records are easily available for inspection at all times
- help staff to improve their skills, in order to ensure all children are supported effectively.

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- improve self-evaluation so all aspects of the playscheme are regularly evaluated and monitored to ensure there are no breaches in requirements, and to continually identify areas for improvement
- increase opportunities for children to engage in more purposeful play with adults, so that they get more involved in activities.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- implement a written record of policies and procedures to be followed for the protection of children (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that vetting systems are in place, including obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check, to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- implement a written record of policies and procedures to be followed for the protection of children (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that vetting systems are in place, including obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check, to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held meetings with the provider and the manager.
- The inspector spoke with children and staff throughout the inspection, and took account of the views of parents.
- The inspector spoke to staff about safeguarding practices.

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Children generally enjoy their time at the playscheme and they sometimes engage in a range of interesting activities. The indoor and outdoor play areas are suitably equipped to support children's interests. These include sensory activities, such as painting, sand and play dough. However, staff practice is inconsistent. Some staff focus more on supervising rather than purposefully interacting with children. As a result, some children stand and watch from a distance rather than joining in. Staff generally support children's communication and language skills well through talking with them during their play. For example, children explain the rules when using the trampoline. This also helps them to develop a sufficient understanding of how to stay safe. Staff gather relevant information from parents about children's interests and needs. This helps to promote consistency between home and the playscheme.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is inadequate

Children's welfare is not assured because not all of the appropriate checks have been carried out on new staff to ensure their suitability to work with children. This puts children at risk. Children engage in physical activities outdoors which benefit their health and they learn about positive hygiene routines. Staff offer a range of healthy snacks from the tuck shop and children can help themselves to drinks. Children gain important skills for independence. For example, they can move between the indoor and outdoor area and choose what to do. Staff have established effective relationships with parents and share information with them on a daily basis. Parents speak positively about the staff and say their children enjoy attending the playscheme.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is inadequate

Managers do not have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They have not notified Ofsted of the change in manager as required. They do not make all documents available for inspection, including those relating to staff recruitment, staff qualifications and the Disclosure and Barring Service checks. Staff have attended child protection training elsewhere and have an adequate understanding of the signs that a child may be at risk. However, they do not have a secure understanding of the safeguarding procedures, including those to follow in the event of an allegation being made against them. There is no safeguarding policy to guide staff practice. Systems for self-evaluation are ineffective and do not identify the significant areas of weakness. Most staff hold relevant childcare qualifications but not all make effective use of these to interact well with children. The manager informally

monitors their practice but does not take steps to tackle any identified weaknesses. As a result, staff practice is inconsistent.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127232
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	813149
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 8
Total number of places	90
Number of children on roll	72
Name of provider	Headcorn Parish Council
Date of previous inspection	29 July 2010
Telephone number	01622 892 496

Headcorn Playscheme is located in Headcorn, near Ashford, Kent. It registered in 1996. The playscheme operates for three weeks in the summer holidays from 9.30am to 12.30pm daily. There are 11 staff who work with the children. Of these, two are qualified teachers and seven hold relevant childcare qualifications.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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