

Mid Suffolk Hops

Settles House, Kerrison Centre, Stoke Road, Thorndon, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7JG



Inspection date

30 May 2018

Previous inspection date

6 August 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The playscheme provides individualised care for children who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities. The environment is extremely well planned with a wide range of highly stimulating activities. Children show high levels of engagement and relax, for example, as they show wonder at the lights and textures in the sensory room.
- Staff have an excellent understanding of children's individual needs and cater for these very well. They gain detailed information from parents when children first start attending the playscheme to ensure high levels of consistency in their care.
- Children receive a very warm welcome from staff when they arrive at the playscheme for their session. Children form very secure bonds with the caring staff. Parents are extremely happy with the service provided. They say that the playscheme goes 'above and beyond' to help families and comment that staff 'treat children with love'.
- The team leader, who holds qualified teacher status, is an inspirational teacher. She cleverly alters activities to gain children's interest and responds extremely well to children's differing behavioural needs. She is able to calm and settle children skilfully.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The provider did not notify Ofsted within the required timescale about an incident that occurred.
- Although professional development for experienced staff is highly effective, the playscheme is still in the process of extending this to new members of the team, including volunteers who work closely with the children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:

Due Date

- improve knowledge of the significant events that need to be notified to Ofsted within 14 days.

01/07/2018

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

- continue plans to extend the highly focused professional development programme to all team members.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact these had on children's personal development, behaviour and welfare.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the team leader.
- The inspector spoke with children and staff at appropriate times.
- The inspector reviewed a sample of documents, including the safeguarding policy and procedures, and the record of Disclosure and Barring Service checks.
- The inspector took account of parents' views through discussions and the wealth of written feedback that the playscheme collected from parents for the inspection.

Inspector

Helen Hyett

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The provider did not inform Ofsted when they were made aware of an incident that took place at another setting involving a member of their staff. However, they took swift action to ensure that children were effectively safeguarded. They also worked in partnership with the local authority to share information. The playscheme carries out thorough background checks when they recruit new staff and volunteers. Safeguarding is effective. Staff and volunteers undertake child protection training. They are aware of signs of abuse and know how to report any concerns. Staff work very closely with social workers and schools. They attend multi-agency meetings to ensure that they provide consistency of care for children and respite for their families. Staff and regular volunteers receive appraisals. They discuss the effectiveness of their practice and identify ways to improve. The management team is dedicated to continuing to improve its practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children are highly motivated in their play. They choose what they would like to do from the wide range of exciting activities on offer. Children explore and become accustomed to the texture of broccoli as they combine it with play dough. They practise different movements in the soft-play area and ball pool. Younger children show their increasing excitement and engagement as they explore water with their hands and feet. They use their senses to find out what the warm water feels like when poured and show anticipation as they wait for it to happen again and again. Children have free access to the outdoors. They readily access specialised equipment, such as swings and bicycles. Children who are ready to do so, learn to listen and develop their awareness of others as they play parachute games. Experienced staff access a very wide range of training, such as how to communicate effectively with children who use non-verbal communication.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The adult-to-child ratio is very high and is specifically tailored to children's individual needs. Members of staff accompany children on the coach that brings them to and from the playscheme to ensure that children are well supervised by qualified staff at all times. There are very well-organised arrangements to ensure that children's medication is readily available on site. Staff respond quickly to any accidents and ensure that appropriate first aid is administered and that parents are informed. Children have an extremely wide range of opportunities to find out about the world. These include visits from a farm, African drumming workshops and a range of craft activities. On the day of the inspection, children showed high levels of interest in a 'visiting zoo'. Many children looked at and held the reptiles and insects, showing increasingly positive attitudes to the new experience. Staff at the playscheme adopt a sensitive approach. They firmly explain why some behaviour is unacceptable and quickly direct children to a more positive task.

Setting details

Unique reference number	251526
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	1103297
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	5 - 16
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	9
Name of registered person	Mid Suffolk Holiday Opportunity Playscheme Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP523395
Date of previous inspection	6 August 2014
Telephone number	07857618161

Mid Suffolk Hops registered in 1993. The playscheme is managed by a group of trustees. The playscheme is specifically for children who have SEN and/or disabilities. The playscheme operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday during school holidays. It also operates on two Saturdays per month, all year round, except for August. Sessions are from 10am until 3pm. The playscheme employs 13 staff and two administrators. Three staff are qualified at level 3 and the team leader holds qualified teacher status. There are 75 volunteers who also help at the playscheme.

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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