

# Clifford Pre-School Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

---

**Unique reference number** 512725  
**Inspection date** 14/10/2008  
**Inspector** Janet Taylor

**Setting address** St. Johns Catholic School for the Deaf, Church Street,  
Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 6DF  
**Telephone number** 07776 078346  
**Email**  
**Type of setting** Childcare on non-domestic premises

## 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 report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

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).

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.

## Description of the setting

Clifford Pre-School Playgroup opened in 1995. It is registered on the Early Years and Childcare Registers. It operates from three rooms in the building of St. Johns School for deaf children. It is situated in the village of Clifford. A maximum of 20 children may attend the playgroup at any one time. The playgroup is open each weekday from 09.15 to 13.15 for 38 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area. There are currently 31 children aged from two years to four years on roll. Of these, four children receive funding for early education. Children come from the local and surrounding areas.

The pre-school management is currently in the process of requesting from Ofsted, approval to extend the facility to provide two full days of care each week, as from January 2009, whilst maintaining the morning sessions as at present.

The nursery employs three members of staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working toward a qualification.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Clifford Pre-School Playgroup offers satisfactory early years provision so children make steady progress and show good awareness of why it is important to be healthy and hygienic. Warm relationships and close levels of personal care for each child draw high regard from parents. Opportunities for children to learn through exploration, investigation and choosing for themselves are sometimes limited. Provision does not always meet the needs of individual children or enhance their enjoyment of activities. There are identified safety issues. There is satisfactory capacity for continuous improvement as the new management committee is systematically addressing identified shortcomings.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- extend the opportunities for children to learn independently and enjoyably through choosing what they do and discovering for themselves
- ensure that planning and activities takes sufficient account of the different learning needs of all children.
- improve the creative activity area to encourage children to access the resources

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

- ensure that the premises, both indoors and outdoors, are safe and secure (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)

04/11/2008

- ensure that a full health and safety audit, including a fire risk assessment is carried out within the setting. (Documentation) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)

11/11/2008

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

Parents are in no doubt about the benefits of this playgroup for their child, despite the many changes that have occurred since the last inspection. The entire management committee has been in place for only six months. Much progress has been made and the situation is now stable but still developing. The playgroup manager is enthusiastic and committed to the development of quality provision. In this she is well supported by a hard working, caring staff. Together they have made a start on self-evaluation. The playgroup manager has identified what needs to be done and is working through these with the support of an enthusiastic chair of the management committee. She has identified the need to revise policies and fill gaps in provision. A notable success has been expanding the multi-cultural resources and a lot has been accomplished in a short time. However, some procedures are not fully in place, for example, some policies lack detail and are not signed as agreed and accepted by the management committee. More work remains to be done therefore to give a clear picture of strengths and weaknesses.

Safeguarding procedures are secure and all staff have had suitable Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks and recent and relevant child protection training. Parents are informed of procedures through the welcome pack provided by the setting. Risk assessments are current and updated regularly. Links with parents are strong and supported by the loan of books on a daily basis and the 'foster care' of Barnaby bear overnight or at weekend. Parents are very willing in their support for the playgroup.

Currently there are no links with similar settings and other providers and so this places limitations on the setting's capacity to prepare children for their future lives and to support staff development.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Relationships between all staff and children are good. Staff focus on individual personal development, via key workers, which ensures children make satisfactory progress in their personal, social and emotional development. Children enjoy their time in playgroup. 'Circle time' when children sit together to talk with an adult is still too long for very young children and lacks sufficient clarity of focus to fully support their learning and development. The range of materials and equipment indoors and out adequately covers all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The outdoor play area is spacious and grassed with a garden from which pupils enjoy fresh salad and vegetables at snack time. This effectively helps them to understand why fresh food is good for their health. The creative activity area lacks

organisation and a full range of resources that children can access independently. Although staff take good care of children, there is a lack of resources to properly support learning, such as giving visual prompts to help younger children to understand new concepts. Insufficient thought is given to suit the range of children's needs and so older or more able children are not challenged sufficiently to accelerate their learning. This is because there are too many staff initiated activities, and so children have little time to learn independently through exploring and finding out for themselves.

Illustrative photographic records of achievement are a good feature of assessment. Children's observations are linked to planning and this too is a good feature. These are a recent development and do not yet fully include parental participation. Children gain a satisfactory awareness of different ethnic groups through the multi-cultural range of dolls, literature, artefacts, photographs and small play figures, which also feature disabilities. The children enjoyed the recent focus on China, eating noodles with chopsticks and working creatively to make a dragon. Links with settings where first hand cultural links would be possible have yet to be made.

The playgroup setting is secure with double handles to all interior doors and a security lock to the outside area. However, the welfare of children is not fully addressed because of shortcomings with regard to the security of external access points, health and safety audits and fire risk assessments.

## 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*

### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	3
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

## 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:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report. (CR5) 04/11/2008
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report. (CR5) 04/11/2008

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 compulsory childcare register section of the report. (CR5) 04/11/2008
- take action as specified in the compulsory childcare register section of the report. (CR5) 11/11/2008

## **Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted**

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

### **Detail of the complaint/s**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.