



## Henrietta Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY290464
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 September 2005
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<b>Registered person</b>	Henrietta Playgroup
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Sessional care

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Henrietta Playgroup is a long established playgroup that moved into new premises in 2004. It operates from one large room within a single storey Surrey County Council building close to the local amenities of West Molesey. There are kitchen facilities, toilet facilities and an enclosed outside play area. It serves families from the local community and surrounding villages.

They cater for 20 children, aged from 2 years to 5 years. They are not currently in receipt of funding to provide nursery education. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting makes provision for children with special needs and/or who

speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens 4 days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:15 until 11:45.

Five permanent members of staff work with the children of these three hold appropriate childcare qualifications. In addition there are two regular supply staff both of whom hold appropriate childcare qualifications. All staff hold a current first aid certificate.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good variety of appropriately aged activities that help to promote their good health and encourage their developing of a healthy body. They participate in a varied range of activities promoting physical play both indoors and out. For instance as most of the children are younger they enjoy action songs and music sessions as well as using ride-in and ride-on toys. They have access to a secure outdoor play area used when weather permits.

Children's welfare and health needs remain protected through parents completing health information forms and providing written information about their individual needs. Children learn and gain an awareness of the importance of good personal hygiene through observing older children and following a consistently implemented routine. They receive verbal information to help them understand why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating food. Staff have attended specialist training to ensure that they meet Health and safety requirements and some have received training on how to administer invasive medicines to children.

Children receive an extensive variety of nutritional snacks throughout the year closely linked into the current theme. For example, during 'Foods of the world' children enjoyed healthy fruit and a variety of different snacks originating from the countries they were covering including tasting spicy Indian food. Children sit at the table during snacks and are encouraged to interact with each other and staff. Children can help themselves to a drink whenever they need one and staff effectively encourage children to drink plenty especially in warm weather to prevent dehydration.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a bright, welcoming and well maintained environment where appropriately sized furniture, appealing resources and a good range of activities are set out ready for them to access. The play space is well-organised to meet their needs and there is sufficient accessible storage for resources. Children remain safely protected and escorted when on the premises through good staff deployment and completion of daily risk assessments. Before commencing on outings staff ensure

that parental consent forms and risk assessments are completed.

Children regularly participate in fire drill practices to ensure they are familiar with, and aware of, how to evacuate the premise if a fire or incident occurs. Children develop an awareness of personal safety within the provision through staffs giving clear explanations and safety guidance. When doing something potentially hazardous they receive clear verbal instructions. For instance if they throw objects, push children or climb onto the tables to get objects staff advise them of the appropriate way to act. This ensures they know to keep themselves and others safe.

Clearly written child protection policies, based on the Area Child Protection Committee procedures, ensure children's safety and welfare. Staff's basic knowledge of child protection is good and the manager is booked onto a safeguarding children foundation training. Pre-existing injuries are clearly recorded.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children attending are all young and enjoy a variety of stimulating activities that are appropriate to their ages. They participate in a balance of activities throughout the week. Additionally they benefit from well thought through planning by staff that ensures a good variety of activities and outings are available to them. These include annual trips out to the Polka Dot theatre and a farm as well as police officers, fire fighters and a dog for the hearing coming to the playgroup.

Children develop their confidence and learn to choose toys and resources for themselves from those on display. Their limited concentration span and young developmental age provides a challenge to staff and means that at times activities and learning does not get extended as well as the setting would like. Staff are in receipt of Birth to Three Matters and are planning on improving their knowledge of this through training. Currently most of the children are two years olds who respond either over enthusiastically or timidly to activities requiring, and receiving, increased comfort, support and physical interaction from staff. They enjoy participating in music and action song sessions. Children's own daily needs are highly valued and include times for rest and quiet play if this is what they wish. Children's confidence within the setting is developing and staff provide excellent support to them during throughout the session.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children receive opportunities to learn about themselves and other cultures through participating in a variety of activities promoting the wider world. These include topics covering Foods of the World, harvest, their pets and Christmas. Careful long term planning by staff ensures that all children are included and themes cover children's own cultures as well as others. Children enjoy activities that include food and bring visitors into the setting.

Children receive encouragement to join in the activities and staff ensure these are adapted to meet the specific developmental needs of the children. Individual health care plans ensure that children with special needs are successfully integrated. Children demonstrate good behaviour and see staff setting positive examples. Their good behaviour is valued and staff give lots of verbal and physical encouragement.

Parents and children receive a friendly and welcoming reception at the playgroup. Staff address them by their first names and excellent relationships develop. Children happily talk to staff when arriving and most separate from their parents without tears. Good verbal and written information is given to parents and volunteers about the practices within the provision, roles and responsibilities. Parents actively fund raise to support the playgroup and this ensures they have a direct involvement in contributing to the service they receive.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The premises are well organised. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for the children. Lots of activities are floor based and unstructured to meet the needs of the children present. Children and parents benefit from the management developing a comprehensive operational folder with clear written policies and procedures in place. Parents have a large notice board accessible in the reception area that displays all relevant information. Children benefit from their being a high ratio of qualified and motivated staff who display caring attitudes. Staffs commitment to training demonstrates a commitment to improvement and development. The needs of children are met.

Registration systems ensure that children's and staffs attendance is recorded. Partnership with parents is a strength with the provision. Parent's remain fully informed of their child's achievements with the staff discussing all aspects of the children's care with them. Management have clear objectives and defined roles and responsibilities. They regularly evaluate their practices and policies to ensure the continual improvement of the playgroup.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

First inspection since current registration.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

#### **WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?**

##### **The quality and standards of the care**

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- develop the staff's knowledge and understanding of the play needs of children under three, and ways to further extend their play, through the use of the Birth to Three Matters framework.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)