



Harewood Centre Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY306929
Inspection date	17 January 2006
Inspector	Ingrid Pine
Setting Address	Harewood Centre, Harewood Avenue, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF8 2ER
Telephone number	01977 722 837
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Registered person	Harewood Centre Playgroup
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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.

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?

Harewood Pre-School is part of Harewood Nursery School which is situated in the middle of a large housing estate on the outskirts of Pontefract. It serves six different schools with a range of different social circumstances. The pre-school operates from an adjoining room next to the nursery. There is a large outdoor play area.

A maximum of 24 children may attend the pre-school at any one time. There are 60 children on roll.

It is open each weekday from 09.00 until 15.00. On a Tuesday afternoon there is a

group for parents and toddlers and on a Thursday there is a Peers Early Education Partnership Group (PEEPS) in operation.

There are two members of staff, both of whom have relevant childcare qualifications and experience.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop a very good understanding of good hygiene. There are effective systems in place that ensure children take responsibility for their own personal routines. They are able to independently access the toilet facilities and use individual towels, soap and tissues. As staff wash the tables and give children anti-bacterial gel to clean their hands before snack, they explain to children how this stops the spread of germs. There is a positive written sickness policy. This is understood well by parents and they are very good at adhering to the rules when their children are ill, ensuring that the risk of cross infection is minimised.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They have good access to drinking water and fluids throughout the day and a choice of healthy snacks. They take part in well planned topics and activities that promote their understanding of healthy eating. For example, a topic on sensible eating highlights that it is good to eat pasta as a warming, nutritious dish during the cold winter months. There are many images of fresh fruit and vegetables displayed so that children learn to recognise what is good for them. Staff and children discuss good and bad foods in the home corner which is set up as a fruit and vegetable shop.

Children really enjoy a good and wide range of outdoor and indoor activities which support and help to develop their physical skills. They get plenty of robust exercise and confidently control a wide variety of large and small equipment in the playground. There are opportunities for children to develop other skills as they play with balls, bats, balancing lines and climbing frames. There is also good provision indoors. For example, they confidently climb steps to the slide and climb under and over the wooden climbing frame. Children manipulate different consistencies such as clay and dough and produce an excellent selection of art work using small and large brushes as well as their hands and feet.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept very safe in a well maintained environment, both inside and outdoors. There are stringent procedures in place to ensure that visitors are checked thoroughly and are supervised at all times whilst in the setting. There is plenty of space and children can move easily and safely around the room. Good quality resources and equipment are stored and presented so that children can freely and safely make their own choices. Toys and resources are kept in a very good state of

repair and checked regularly for safety. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own and other's safety. Staff and other adults consistently remind children of the reasons for safety and older children show particular care for their younger peers. Staff and volunteers are appropriately deployed, ensuring children are always well supported and supervised. A secure, soft play area for the babies ensures that they are safe, especially when there is a mixed group of children attending.

Children learn about keeping themselves safe outdoors. Part of the outside play area is set up as a road for them to ride their bikes. Staff use this method of play effectively to teach children all about road safety.

Clear and comprehensive policies and procedures are in place to ensure children's safety. These are shared with parents. There are effective procedures in place to ensure that children are collected by authorised people.

Children are well protected and safe from harm. Staff are vigilant and aware of the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. They know the appropriate procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child. Adults working with children are aware of the publication 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'. There is a clear child protection statement based on this booklet and the local area child protection committee procedures. There is a knowledgeable named person responsible for ensuring that child protection concerns are dealt with appropriately and sensitively.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Staff provide a wide range of well planned, structured activities such as art and crafts, music and singing, construction, role play and story telling sessions. Opportunities for informal learning are maximised as adults allow children to initiate their own play, observing how the play develops. Staff are always on hand to give support and encouragement when necessary. They make very good use of questioning as they challenge children to remember the sequence of events in a song or to recognise colour, number and shape. Staff spend time playing and talking with children and helping them to learn.

Children learn to become independent. They use their imagination well when playing in the dough or creating colourful, interesting paintings. They are adept at dealing with their own personal routines such as toileting, putting their coats on and choosing their own activities. They take responsibility for tidying up at certain times during the day.

Adults observe children as they play and record what they can do. Children's profiles show excellent examples of children's work. These are shared with parents and supply firm foundations for their next steps of learning in the adjacent nursery class. However, this information is not used formally to plan for their individual next steps of learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff have a very good understanding of equal opportunities policies and work within them. They foster positive links with children's own culture and community, involving parents. Children have access to a broad range of resources, play opportunities and activities, which reflect diversity and cultural differences.

Children are taught to be kind and thoughtful. They show high levels of care and concern for each other. They are mostly well mannered, share, take turns and enthusiastically respond to requests from staff to help tidy up or help with an activity. Staff praise and encourage children frequently, ensuring that children develop confidence and self esteem.

There is a well trained and experienced Special Educational Needs Coordinator which helps to ensure that each child's individual needs are fully met. The provider works closely with parents and liaises with other relevant professionals. Children with individual needs are well catered for. Staff are confident in using epi-pens, providing specialist food and implementing programmes for supporting children with autism.

Excellent behaviour management strategies ensure that children have clear boundaries that they understand. For example, music is used effectively to indicate when it is tidy up time. Parents are supported and included and work hard to manage their children's behaviour in the same consistent manner as the staff. Children respond well and are very secure and happy.

Partnership with parents is excellent. Parents' sessions effectively encourage and empower parents to take responsibility for their own children's learning. A specialist session once per week shows parents how to manage behaviour effectively, recognise their children's individual needs and provide exciting and challenging resources within the home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff hold relevant childcare qualifications and show a high commitment towards their own personal development and improving their knowledge by attending relevant courses and workshops. They use this knowledge effectively to provide children with a wide range of learning experiences and to support and empower parents.

Space and resources are organised imaginatively and flexibly so that children can choose to access areas and activities to extend their play and develop their independence. Good resources such as treasure baskets, home corner and specific baby areas encourage children to learn and have fun.

Adults use their time well and are particularly skilled at interacting with children, responding well to them and listening to their ideas. Staff extend children's learning and thinking imaginatively. As a result children are confident and have a positive

approach to the learning experiences provided.

All appropriate documentation for the safety and welfare of children is in place. It is very well presented and kept in a confidential manner. It is available for parents and is shared regularly with them. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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 children's profiles in line with assessment programmes such as Birth to three matters

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