

Shaw Rascals

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	962265
Inspection date	28/10/2011
Inspector	Sarah Quinn
Setting address	St. Pauls Methodist Church, Rochdale Road, Shaw, OLDHAM, Lancashire, OL2 8AD
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Type of setting	Childcare - Non-Domestic

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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 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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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.

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Description of the setting

Shaw Rascals is run by a voluntary management committee with charity status. It was registered in 1994 and operates from St Paul's Methodist Church in the Shaw area of Oldham. Children have access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area. A maximum of 48 children aged between three and eight years may attend the setting at any one time. The setting is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 9am and 3.30pm to 5.30pm during term time. The holiday club opens from 7.30am to 5.30pm from Monday to Friday during school holidays, excluding bank holidays and Christmas week.

There are currently 31 children on roll, seven of whom are in the early years age range. The setting supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The setting is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

There are six members of staff, including the manager, who work directly with the children. Of these, four hold a qualification at level 3 in early years and one holds a qualification at level 2. The setting is a member of 4Children and receives support from the local authority.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Shaw Rascals provide a safe and caring environment, where children's needs are well met. Strong relationships and a commitment to equality and diversity mean that children feel valued and make good progress. Regular self-evaluation identifies significant strengths and weaknesses and enables the setting to continuously improve. The indoor environment is stimulating, and children enjoy their play. While children also enjoy the outdoor environment, they are not easily able to access the area independently.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the links, where possible, between the indoor and outdoor environments so that children can move more freely between them.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Safeguarding procedures are robust, and staff know how to act upon any concerns for children in their care. Recruitment, induction and appraisal processes are secure and ensure suitable staff are recruited and they continue to be suitable. Detailed risk assessments cover all areas of the premises, indoors and outside, and

are updated regularly. Staff maintain medication and accident records, sharing details promptly with parents. Staff collect information from parents about their children to enable them to plan appropriate activities according to children's interests and developmental needs. Staff model safe and healthy practices for children during everyday routines and also practise specific activities, for example evacuation drills, to develop children's understanding of safety issues.

There is a stimulating range of resources and activities for the ages of children attending. Although outdoor play is available at specific times during the day, staff have yet to develop this further to allow children to move freely between the indoor and outdoor areas. Staff promote equality and diversity well, ensuring all children's needs are met, and providing further resources to promote children's understanding of other cultures and abilities. Staff have secure knowledge to enable them to support individual children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Links with local schools and other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage are effective and ensure continuity of care and learning.

There is a good partnership with parents and carers. Staff share informative details with parents about their child's time at the setting and display useful information about activities and planning. Information is given to parents about the Early Years Foundation Stage and how the planning links to each area of learning. Parents make very favourable comments about the setting such as, 'My child loves coming to Shaw Rascals' and 'Staff are fantastic and we could not ask for more'.

Staff use self-evaluation very well to reflect on their work. They address actions identified quickly, which demonstrates an encouraging commitment to improvement. The mission statement reflects staff commitment to driving improvement. Overall, the staff work very well as a team to provide a caring environment for children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Staff have a good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They provide an interesting range of activities and experiences to meet children's needs. Children show interest and enjoyment as they take part in activities, for example dressing up and having their faces painted, balancing on stilts, and making bats and pointed hats for a themed party. Children attend for a variety of sessions, some more regularly than others, and all children cooperate and share very well. Older children show high levels of care and support for the younger ones. The willingness children show to support others contributes to developing their skills for the future. Children are secure in the setting and are beginning to display a strong sense of belonging and confidence. Staff provide an inclusive environment, which reflects the children's backgrounds and individual needs. However, children are not always able to make choices about being active as they cannot decide when to play outdoors. There is an inviting area for children to visit independently to rest.

Children enjoy creative activities, such as making a collage or using dough.

Children comment that they like coming to the setting to make friends and participate in activities. Children understand the rules of the setting and demonstrate very good self-control. Staff obviously enjoy being with the children and interactions between them and the children are very positive, demonstrating high levels of respect and understanding.

Children show a good understanding of safety and healthy lifestyles. They follow appropriate personal hygiene routines independently. Children take regular breaks during the day, eating food their parents provide and have easy access to drinks to quench their thirst. Children show an understanding of the importance of regular exercise and they enjoy opportunities to engage in physical activities outside, for example riding on the bicycles. They develop their physical skills as they balance on stilts or play football. Children very much enjoy attending the setting and make friends as they learn through play.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	2

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met