

Southampton Opportunity Group @ Thornhill

Sure Start Thornhill, Byron Road, SOUTHAMPTON, SO19 6FH



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

8 June 2015

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The written policies and procedures lack some required information and leaders do not ensure all staff records are available for inspection. This means several specific requirements, including a requirement of the Childcare Register, are not met. However, these do not have a significant impact on children's safety and well-being.
- Methods of self-evaluation do not help leaders and staff to identify all possible areas for development.

It has the following strengths

- The manager and staff have a clear understanding of their responsibilities to protect children. They know the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect, and know the procedures to follow should they have a concern regarding a child.
- Staff provide a very safe and secure environment. They form secure attachments with children, forge excellent communication skills and build trust with parents.
- Leaders and staff are committed to providing a fully inclusive service and work extremely closely with parents and other professionals involved in children's welfare and learning. As a result, staff meet children's individual needs highly effectively.
- Staff underpin the exceptional educational programmes through their high expectations of themselves and the children. They have an expert knowledge and understanding of how children learn and how to support the specific needs of children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Staff provide children with an extensive range of exciting and challenging activities that encourage their natural curiosity to learn. As a result, children make excellent progress in their development in relation to when they first started attending.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure safeguarding policies and procedures include information about the procedures to follow should an allegation be made against a member of staff or someone working with children, when a member of staff is dismissed, or would have been, due to a child protection concern and when a member of staff or someone in their household is disqualified from working with children
- ensure relevant staff records are always available for Ofsted to view, with particular regard to the date of issue and number of their criminal record disclosure, and their first-aid qualifications.

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

- improve the evaluation methods to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- keep and implement a written record of policies and procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff during play and learning activities, and viewed the play areas and resources.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with the manager and staff about the policies and procedures, including how they safeguard children, promote inclusion, how staff work with parents and other early years providers and professionals, and self-evaluation methods.
- The inspector looked at a sample of children's progress records, planning and tracking systems, and had discussions with staff.
- The inspector talked to children and some parents to gain their views of the nursery.

Inspector

Jacqueline Munden

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

Staff provide a carefully planned morning of adult-led activities in an expertly arranged learning environment that encourages children to be independent in their play. Children are happy to see familiar staff and friends, and quickly start to explore. Staff understand the importance of helping children to develop ways to communicate. They use their skills gained through training and qualifications to support children with specific language and communication difficulties extremely effectively. At snack time for example, children showed they are becoming competent and confident in using a system of picture cards to indicate what food they want to eat. Children who previously used no speech at all are making great strides in their learning and now use single, and some several, words to express themselves. Staff lay the table ready for children to help themselves, which helps children develop high levels of coordination and independence. As a result, all children display great confidence, develop high levels of self-esteem and are extremely well prepared for the next stages in their learning now and in the future.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Staff have a particular in-depth knowledge of each child, their home backgrounds, the professionals involved in their life and their very specific needs. Parents report they greatly appreciate the high levels of support staff provide to them and the siblings of children with additional needs. Children respond very well to the positive reinforcement and encouragement from staff who skilfully guide them towards playing cooperatively and keeping safe. Staff meet children's physical needs extremely well. However, there are some weaknesses in the setting's safeguarding policy, which means leaders do not have all the required information to hand to follow procedures when necessary.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

Leaders ensure staff have a good understanding of safeguarding procedures through training, although they have not included all required information in documents for staff to refer to. For example, the child protection policies and procedures do not include how to respond should an allegation be made against a member of staff, if a member of staff is dismissed due to a child protection concern or when a member of staff is disqualified from working with children. Leaders follow robust vetting procedures to ensure staff are suitable to work with children at appointment and that they are suitably qualified and trained. Such records were not all available for inspection. The manager continuously evaluates staff practice, the children's activities and tracks children's progress. However, evaluation is not robust enough to help identify breaches in specific requirements. Staff are committed to improving their skills and share what they learn with each other, which benefits children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY434577
Local authority	Southampton
Inspection number	808505
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	15
Name of provider	Southampton (Hardmoor) Opportunity Group Committee
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	02380917633

Southampton Opportunity Group @ Thornhill registered in 2011. It operates from a room in the Sure Start Centre in the grounds of Thornhill Primary School, Southampton. The group specifically supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their siblings. The group is open each Monday during term time from 9am until 11:30am. The group employs three members of staff, including a manager. Two members of staff hold a relevant early years qualification at Level 3 and one is a qualified teacher.

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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