



Hopscotch Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	508951
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Inspector	Chris Mackinnon
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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?

Hopscotch Nursery opened in 1994. It operates within the ground floor of a converted house in Peacehaven, East Sussex. A maximum of 39 children may attend at any one time. The Nursery is open each weekday from 08:00 to 17:30 throughout the year. Children have access to a secure, enclosed, outdoor play area.

There are currently 86 children aged from 0 to under 5 years on roll. Of these, 27 receive funding for nursery education. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery school employs eleven staff. Seven staff members hold appropriate early years qualifications and four are training.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are healthy and active through staff following successful procedures and practices which meet the children's health and nutritional needs. Consistent adult support and guidance helps children gain an effective understanding of hygiene and a desire to maintain independence in their personal care.

Children are active and move with confidence around the setting. Staff have a good understanding of children's development needs and provide plenty of challenges to promote children's manual skills and use of tools. Younger children are given close support and encouragement to explore resources and develop healthily, within a well organised and stimulating environment. Children demonstrate a positive attitude to exercise and have fun during a wide range of expressive games and activities such as; balancing and climbing, lively music and movement sessions and outdoor games with staff, which they enjoy enthusiastically.

Children enjoy healthy snacks and have a variety of fresh fruits available to them. The quality of the food and drinks provided is monitored by staff, who also give consideration to children's individual dietary needs. Children also take part in food preparation activities, which supports their learning about healthy eating. The overall good quality of the games and activities and the high level of staff involvement, contributes greatly to children's physical development and good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy play and learning activities in a welcoming and stimulating environment. The setting provides plenty of space and many opportunities to develop and learn new skills. Care is taken to organise the children's play areas to be safe and well prepared for a wide range of challenging activities to take place.

Children are protected from accidents and harm through close staff supervision and a wide range of effective safety procedures. Detailed risk assessments are in place which are regularly reviewed to reduce hazards. Staff have a consistent understanding of the need for safety outdoors and organise physical play activities that are effectively supervised. Staff involve children well in learning about playing safety together.

Children use good quality equipment appropriate to their ages and level of development. Staff take care to regularly check the condition of all play items and outdoor equipment. Plenty of resources are available for all children to be imaginative, to enjoy their activities and have fun. Messy-play, art-crafts and

technology items are all featured and younger children have access to sensory development resources. Those with special needs are safely included, with sensitive adult support and adaptations made to resources and activities.

A range of security measures are in place to keep children safe and secure during play sessions. Clear staff guidance and parental consents contribute to children's safety on outings. Children are well protected by trained and experienced staff who have a clear understanding of child protection procedures and give priority to children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their play and are well stimulated by their experiences at the setting. They achieve easily, explore resources confidently and have much fun. Children become well involved in the play and learning environment, supported by the staff's skilful provision of challenging games and activities. Children have many positive adult-child learning interactions that develops their language and communication skills. Children join-in eagerly and are delighted by inventive and expressive activities. For example; exciting physical group games, lively music and movement activities and sensory play, exploring texture and sound.

All children engage in a range of play and learning activities that are well organised to meet their developing needs. Children are confident in their play and work closely with key-workers to expand their range of skills in writing and recognising words. Children explore a wide range of materials in interesting art-craft and creative projects. Children learn numbers and sizes and use a wide range of assembly and making materials to represent their ideas. Children are imaginative and create their own games and adapt resources, during free-play sessions and role-play.

Children use a wide range of outdoor play equipment well, with access to plenty of resources for climbing, jumping and learning balance. Children respond enthusiastically to the many opportunities provided to extend their physical confidence. Staff plan activities to help children learn about nature, growing and the seasons. A range of visitors, celebrations and learning topics relating to the local area, supports children's knowledge of the wider world.

Staff are well motivated to support children's learning, developing children's confidence and interactive skills in well organised mixed group activities. Staff are perceptive to children's curiosity and use questions successfully to challenge children's thinking and extend learning. Staff take care to monitor individual children's development effectively to help them achieve as much as they can. Staff are effective in observing children's progress and are successful in helping children to be fulfilled and enjoy their time at the nursery.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and encouraged to join-in and play co-operatively together. The setting encourages children to help and to share, which fosters their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Children's behaviour is good and staff take care to develop individual children's self worth and confidence. Staff are consistent in setting clear boundaries for children, which helps them learn to take responsibility for their own actions. Staff are successful in developing children's sense of belonging and involvement in the group. Staff are enthusiastic role-models and encourage children to contribute fully in the play and learning activities. Children respond well to prompts to care for their surroundings, resources and each other.

Children have an ample range of opportunities to learn about themselves and each other. The setting's learning programme includes a broad range of activities well organised to reflect diversity and develop children's awareness of the wider world. Children learn about their local community through planned activities and regular visitors. Children also visit local shops and places of interest.

Staff have good relationships with parents, which contributes significantly to the children's positive approach to the setting. Staff keep clear information on individual children's achievements and ensure parents know how their children are progressing. Parents have access to information on the early learning programme, but lack clear details of the weekly play and learning themes, limiting their involvement in children's development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and benefit from the good organisation of the setting's space and play environment. Staff are effectively deployed to encourage children's development and communicate well to support individual children. The indoor and outdoor play areas are well prepared to encourage expressive and physical activities and provide many learning opportunities for children. A generous supply of stimulating and attractive play resources support children successfully in having fun and learning new skills.

Children benefit from well qualified and experienced staff, who are effectively deployed and actively supported by the person in charge. A staff appraisal system is in place to support competence. All staff are committed to continuous improvement and follow a programme of further training and development.

All required record keeping that contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and is well maintained. The setting has clear and detailed documentation, which is easily accessible to staff and parents. Clear and detailed policy guidance material is also in place to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the nursery has improved children's choices and access to books, supporting suitable outcomes for children in enjoying and achieving. The nursery has also developed children's choices at snack-time with fresh fruit and vegetables now provided, helping children to be healthy. A clearer system of recording complaints has been introduced, contributing to the efficient organisation of the nursery.

Complaints since the last inspection

A complaint was received in July 2005 regarding the provider's practice in standard 12, partnership with parents. Ofsted carried out an investigation and was satisfied with the outcome. The provider continues to be registered.

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

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):

- provide more information for parents on the weekly play and learning themes, to support parents involvement in their children's progress and development

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