

Earlydays Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number 309292
Inspection date 10/06/2009
Inspector Denise Sixsmith

Setting address The New Village Hall, Moss Side Way, Leyland, Lancashire,
PR26 7XU

Telephone number 01772 621 455

Email

Type of setting Childcare on non-domestic premises

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).

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.

Description of the setting

Earlydays Playgroup is run by a private provider and has been registered since 1987. It operates from a village hall that has a main playroom and adjoining toilets and kitchen. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area. The group is open weekdays during term time from 09:00 to 11:45 and 12:45 to 15:00 on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. It serves the local area.

The group is registered on the Early Years Register. A maximum of 25 children may attend at any one time. There are currently 51 children aged from two to under five years on roll, children attend for a variety of sessions. The group currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties. The provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

There are four staff in addition to the manager that work with the children on a full and part time basis. The majority of the staff have an early years qualifications. The playgroup receives support from the Local Authority and provides funded early education for three and four year olds.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Staff ensure that the environment is very inviting and provides good challenges for children to learn and develop through play during the Early Years Foundation Stage. The provider, staff and parents play an effective role in evaluating the provision to provide a clear understanding of how to make continual improvements in all areas. Staff ensure that all children are valued as individuals and their individual needs are met very well.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- review the contents of the first aid box to ensure there are appropriate contents to meet the needs of the children
- review hygiene practises to ensure that used disposable towels are stored appropriately to reduce the risk of cross contamination.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that the record of the risk assessment clearly states when it was carried out, by whom, the date of the review and any action taken following a review or accident.

24/06/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The playgroup has a supportive management system in the form of the provider who has a hands-on-approach and provides a positive role model for both the staff and the children. Staff work well as a team and are committed to undertaking ongoing training to ensure that they keep up to date with new developments and ideas to improve the service provided. Safeguarding and child protection systems are in place and known by staff. Good systems are in place to monitor the quality of the provision, for example, the completion of Ofsted's self-evaluation document and the collation of views from parental questionnaires. All recommendations raised at the last inspection have been met successfully to provide a safer and more challenging environment for the children. Staff clearances are taken up as required and staff are monitored closely until all clearances are obtained to ensure the protection of children.

Good safety precautions are in place. However, whilst written risk assessments and daily checklists are in place they do not fully meet requirements because they are not signed or dated. The premises are clean and well maintained and staff ensure that gloves and aprons are worn at appropriate times to reduce the risk of infection and cross contamination, however, the bins in the children's toilets used for the disposal of used paper towels do not contain lids and as such pose a risk. The required number of staff have undertaken appropriate first aid training, however, some of the contents of the first aid box have passed their use by date.

Partnership with parents are good. Parents spoken to are all very supportive of the playgroup and the staff. Parents told the inspector how much their children like coming to the group and how much they have gained in confidence and 'come on in leaps and bounds'. Many parents have had older children attend the group in the past and have taken the opportunity to recommend it to other parents. The staffs partnership with parents helps to reassure the children and enable them to quickly develop trusting relationships with each other and staff. Links have been developed with the playgroup and some of the local schools, that the children will go on to attend, to assist in providing a smooth transition.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Staff know the children well and observe their progress including the development of their interests. This helps them to plan activities which the children enjoy and can relate to, for example, the development of the baby clinic role play area in response to the fact that a number of the families have new babies. Different areas of play experiences have been set out with good attention to detail in each area to provide a varied experience for the children. There is a good range of resources, pictures, and books, which reflect positive images of diversity, helping children learn to respect others.

Children blossom in a safe and secure environment which enables them to feel comfortable and ready to learn. The allocation of key workers ensures that each child has their own special adult to oversee their care and development. This helps

to ensure that staff have a clear and detailed overview of each child's progress and welfare, which is shared with parents. Staff know all the children and families well which ensures there is a warm welcoming feel to the group and children feel valued as individuals. Children develop self-help skills well, for example, knowing they must wash their hands after the toilet, after touching the ducks and before the baking session. They readily put on aprons to play in the water play or to paint and put on cardigans or coats as appropriate for outdoor play. Children work well with adults and behaviour is good. They are learning to share and take turns well. Children collaborate well with each other, for example in interesting activities such as, the role play in the baby clinic, washing and drying the dolls. They decorating the finger biscuits with melted chocolate learning the importance of adding 'sparkles' and 'colourful sprinkles' before it sets. The children are confident and giggle with delight as they watch the ducklings and inform the inspector that 'they eat grass'. Children develop their numeracy and language skills very well through everyday and adult lead activities.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through gentle reminders from staff about running in the setting and planned visits and activities. They learn about staying healthy as they enjoy healthy snacks and talk about their favourite fruits. Children receive plenty of fresh air as they can freely access the outdoor area and thoroughly enjoy the tennis coaching session. Fresh drinking water is readily available to all children.

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

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

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