

Esklets Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	400319
Inspection date	14/10/2008
Inspector	Christine Tipple
Setting address	Station Yard, Danby, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO21 2JF
Telephone number	01287 660173
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 report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

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).

Description of the setting

Esklets Playgroup is managed by a voluntary management committee. It is situated in the village of Danby near Whitby. It serves the immediate locality and the surrounding villages, including Castleton, Lealholme, Fryup, Comondale and Westerdale and other outlying areas. The playgroup operates in a one storey self-contained accommodation on station property. Children have access to enclosed outside play areas. There is a ramp at the main entrance for access.

There are links with local primary schools in Castleton and Danby, and staff are members of the local cluster group for all early years provision in the area.

The playgroup is registered for 18 children in the early years age range only. Currently there are 22 children on roll. The group opens Monday to Friday, 09.15 to 11.45 term time only. There are six members of staff employed, of whom four have childcare qualification at levels 2 and above, and one staff member is working towards extending their qualification. The setting is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance. The playgroup has an award from the Local Authority for being a 'Highly Effective' provider.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are highly motivated and engaged in all areas of their learning and development. This is provided through the exceptional learning opportunities offered by conscientious and committed playgroup staff. The children have an excellent range of resources and experiences both inside and outside which fully promote all areas of learning. The children's individual needs are exceedingly well supported. Their interests are extended and highly valued to ensure children's ongoing progress in relation to their starting points. Staff work very well as a team, they reflect and evaluate their practice and provision which ensures the continuation of a rich, varied and enhanced learning environment for all the children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- continue to develop and support staff in relation to the key person role and responsibilities.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The range of policies, procedures and records are very detailed and well informed. They provide a robust and ongoing review of children's health, safety and well-being by the playgroup. These are fully supported by the management committee. The committee play an active role in working with staff to ensure the continuation of the consistently high quality of care and learning provided for all the children.

There are clear procedures in relation to the safe recruitment and suitability of staff which give high priority to the safeguarding of children. All staff have regular appraisals to identify their training needs and ongoing self-development. Training is very well attended and this is evident from the staff's knowledge and skills in offering a highly innovative learning environment which significantly enhances and extends children's development and progress.

The playgroup has excellent links with parents, carers and their community. The relationships with the schools is outstanding and ensures the child is the centre of the transition process into school. The clever use of photographs, visits and children being invited to school activities ensure their individual needs are fully supported so they continue to progress. Parents have ongoing access to their children's progress records and their comments are valued by staff. This is extended through the questionnaires they complete which links into the playgroups self-evaluation development plan. This plan is detailed and ensures it covers all areas of the playgroups practices, to identify areas to improve. This highlighted the playgroups area to improve in relation to the development and support for all staff in the key person role. The involvement of the parents through helping out at sessions and being part of the management committee ensures all have a shared interest in the playgroups high level of quality learning and care for all the children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The playgroup provides a warm, child centred and welcoming environment which is a fun and interesting place to be. Children are actively contributing to their learning through the staff's skills in recognising and acting upon their individual needs. The excellent range, balance and variety of resources, equipment and activities fully enhance and maximise all six areas of learning. The children make excellent progress and are enthusiastic in all that they do. The staff are fully engaged with the children and know them well and this forms strong relationships from the staff's high level of awareness of each child's starting points and their interests. Children have a highly secure and safe environment which is maintained and monitored by the staff through the risk assessment and their vigilance on a daily basis. Children have snacks provided which they serve themselves and these offer a very good daily variety and range of healthy and nutritious options.

Children are very confident and their independence is promoted and encouraged in all areas of their play. This covers their personal care and the levels of risk they take through access to the wonderful resources and wealth of experiences provided. The use of the outdoors is inspiring, the children have access to various role play scenarios, such as the shop and café all exceptionally well equipped. There is a large covered sand area which enables the children to sit on diggers and other larger tools. The construction area uses real resources, such as bricks and wood. The children have a garden area which enables them to grow seeds and plants which links well to the seasons. Outings in the area enhance their opportunities to explore and investigate their surroundings. These all offer children hands on real experiences which provide excellent opportunities for them to be creative, imaginative and active learners. The well resourced creative provision for the

children provides them with a range of skills and opportunities to make connections which is strongly linked to their varied interests. The children are absorbed in their exploration of their own ideas, expressing them through their play, making and transforming things using the excellent range of materials, such as crayons, paints, scissors, props and make believe. Children take a high level of responsibility in initiating their own learning and making choices and decisions in what they do.

The child-led approach is very well managed and understood by the staff who see their role as enablers to the children's learning in continuing to extend and develop their interests and experiences. Children use the inside and outside throughout the session, which offers children a free flow system. The physical opportunities are very good through the excellent use of the outside. The range of tools and resources fully promote their skills and abilities and they thoroughly enjoy making their own models. Children are competent in using numbers and managing simple problem solving throughout all areas of their play which is fully supported with a wealth of displays, games and equipment. Children develop their speaking and listening skills very well which build the foundations for literacy. The interesting range of words and letters, and resources at activities, such as menus and instructions, all support their recognition that words have meaning and purpose. Children have excellent opportunities to interact with others, to listen and share news and interests at circle time. Children use a range of tools to mark make with, which is provided throughout the playgroup, such as clip boards, diaries, brushes and pencils. Stories and the use of story sacks are well used and thoroughly enjoyed by the children who contribute and add their interpretation. Staff provide a book lending service for children and parents.

The observation and assessment by staff of the children's learning and development is detailed and clear in identifying children's next steps and ways forward for them to extend and progress. The observations are clearly linked to the six areas of learning and staff evaluate to ensure all these are promoted and covered by the children through the extensive range of activities and resources provided. The creative use of children's quotes and photographs in each child's file provide a wonderful record of their learning journey at the playgroup which are fully shared with parents.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

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

Overall effectiveness

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

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

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

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 C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.