

# The Little Group

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY369179
<b>Inspection date</b>	08/10/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Helen Griffiths
<b>Setting address</b>	Care of St Joseph's Primary School, Rose Bank, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 7RT
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<b>Type of setting</b>	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).

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

'The little group' offers specialist day care for children aged two to six years who have a complex communication or Autistic Spectrum disorder. There are currently 28 children on roll and 15 members of staff. The breakdown of the number on roll is as follows: two 2-year-olds, 15 3-year-olds, 10 4-year-olds and one 5-year-old.

Each class has a fully qualified teacher and a speech therapist as well as at least one teaching assistant. All staff hold appropriate and highly accredited qualifications.

The Nursery is open Monday to Thursday from 09.30 – 15.00 and on Fridays from 09.30 -12.00, term time only.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The quality and effectiveness of the provision are outstanding. Its aim is to 'lead the field in the provision of early intervention for children...and their families and to inspire the practice of others.' It is highly successful in fulfilling these aims.

The setting is highly effective in ensuring children's progress in all areas of learning and their personal development.

All aspects of the setting's work are excellent. Children's learning and development are impressive in relation to their capabilities and provision for their physical and emotional well-being is excellent. Systems for assessing and recording children's progress are outstanding.

Exceptional partnerships between the provider and parents, together with links with other agencies, ensure that children's needs are met.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- provide suitable climbing equipment in the outdoor play area to improve children's co-ordination, safety awareness and physical skills

## The leadership and management of the early years provision

The leadership and management of the Nursery are outstanding.

The vision of the headteacher is inspirational to staff and parents. She rigorously evaluates and monitors her own performance and that of her staff to ensure that children receive the best possible care. The dedicated staff strive constantly to ensure that all are aware of the changing demands of provision for these children and to implement innovative programmes. The proactive action plan and constant

review ensure that provision meets the needs of every child.

The Headteacher's self-evaluation is rigorous and involves careful analysis of the setting's strengths and where improvements can be made.

Procedures, policies and records are extensive, secure and thoroughly maintained. Assessment is outstanding: individual files are carefully monitored on at least a weekly basis and daily informal meetings ensure that children's welfare is paramount.

The staff of 'the little group' work very closely with parents to ensure that they are well informed about their children's progress or problems. Parents are unanimous in their praise of the consistent support they are given at all times

Very strong bonds of trust and support have been built up between The Little Group and local authorities, St Joseph's Primary School and other schools in the group to which it belongs. Links with the mainstream and special schools to which children may transfer are exemplary.

All procedures to ensure children's safety and welfare are exemplary. Staff are highly qualified and all have been carefully vetted. All staff have had training in paediatric first aid. Child Protection procedures are highly secure. Systems are carefully maintained to ensure careful monitoring of children's complex medical conditions, through individual health care plans where appropriate.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

The early years provision is outstanding. The EYFS curriculum has been very well adapted to provide an excellent curriculum for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders, emphasising the importance of positive learning and communication. Most of the outdoor play equipment is of excellent quality but the nursery lacks suitable climbing apparatus that will promote and enhance the children's physical development and their special awareness. Sensory development and behaviour are carefully and effectively monitored.

Adults support children's learning very well. The two classes each have a special needs teacher and a speech therapist to support their learning and development. Children each have two key workers to help their social interaction.

Sessions are carefully planned and underwritten by a strongly language-based curriculum. The high ratio of adults to children ensures that children's needs can be met and their progress carefully monitored. Children are effectively taught to keep themselves safe and healthy. As a consequence, children make excellent progress according to their abilities. Their social and linguistic development is particularly strong, which is reflected in their excellent enjoyment of lessons and outstanding rate of progress towards the learning goals for their age and ability.

## 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

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	1
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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](http://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

## **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 registration.

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.