



## The Toby Henderson Trust

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY302923
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 February 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Marie Mcconville
<b>Setting Address</b>	Whitehouse Farm Centre, Stannington, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 6AW
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<b>Registered person</b>	The Toby Henderson Trust
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Out of School 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](http://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?

The Toby Henderson Trust Holiday Playscheme has been registered since September 2005. It is situated in a converted outbuilding within Whitehouse Farm Centre which lies on the outskirts of Morpeth in Northumberland. The playscheme operates during school holidays from 09:30 until 15:30 five days per week. Children have access to three playrooms, a sensory room and bathroom facilities on the ground and first floor. There are four members of staff who have appropriate qualifications and experience who work directly with the children.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's health and wellbeing are very well promoted. They are effectively protected from infection and are well taken care of should they become ill or have an accident. The comprehensive health and hygiene policies which staff know well and implement efficiently are effectively shared with parents. However, accident reports have not been signed by parents to acknowledge that information has been shared. A clear, comprehensive medication policy is well understood by staff and shared with parents to ensure children's medical needs are efficiently met. A very good range of services are available to the children on the holiday playscheme. Children are able to take advantage of a visiting homeopathy clinic run by practitioners who take a holistic approach to supporting the children. Children are also able to take advantage of a visiting dentist to enable them to experience gentle mouth exploration in the secure setting of the playscheme to help them prepare for routine dental visits. Children can also take advantage of a haircutting service. Children benefit from being in a clean, very well maintained environment and staff are pro-active in ensuring that the children develop and know about the importance of having good personal hygiene habits. The high staff-child ratio enables children to have very good support from staff when using the bathroom.

Parents provide packed lunches, the holiday playscheme provides morning and afternoon snacks in accordance with children's individual tolerances. Regular drinks are offered throughout the day and staff are well aware of when children need drinks for example, after exercise or bus trips. Drinking water is always available and children are able to access it with staff support. Very detailed records are kept of children's preferences, allergies and intolerances, staff are all informed about the children's needs and parental wishes are strictly complied with to ensure children's dietary needs are not compromised. Children's needs for special diets are treated in a sensitive manner by staff.

There are excellent arrangements in place to enable children to take part and enjoy a variety of therapeutic and challenging physical activities both indoors and outdoors. Physical activities are well planned and well resourced, take into account children's individual abilities and provide a wide range of experiences to enable children to develop their large and fine motor skills and their hand-eye co-ordination. Children have access to wall mounted equipment specially constructed to suit their needs, for example, wall spinners, wall rattles and a specially constructed spinning swing, all of which are used enthusiastically by the children. A number of exciting, challenging outings are provided to enable children to experience the wider world, for example, sledging, trampolining and stable visits.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and very well maintained environment,

with thought given to providing a range of tactile and sensory experiences as children are welcomed into the setting and move from room to room. Careful and highly effective organisation of playrooms and resources mean that children can move around safely and are developing good levels of confidence and a good sense of security within their environment.

Children have access to a variety of good quality play materials and equipment that are very well maintained. The staff ensure that the accessibility of materials is not overwhelming for children so that they take part in activities that provide the correct levels of challenge and stimulation. As a result, children are motivated and take part in activities that are very well supported by staff.

The safety and wellbeing of children is given the highest priority. Children are safe and secure indoors and on outings because staff put into practice the range of procedures to maximise the care and wellbeing of the children at all times. For example, through detailed risk assessments about places visited and comprehensive, individual risk assessments that address the unique needs of each child. Staff are forever vigilant and respond with alacrity to each child. For example, during an outing to a leisure centre, a child choose to explore outside of his immediate environment, staff addressed this with immediate effect through careful observation of the child's activity and responded effectively. Children's welfare is further promoted and safeguarded through staff knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities regarding child protection. However, the child protection policy does not show clearly the procedure to be followed in respect of an allegation made about a member of staff.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is outstanding.

Children are well settled, they separate well from parents and have established trusting relationships with staff because staff know the children very well. Home visits, detailed care plans, that include excellent information about children's global needs and daily observations are used to plan a very good range of activities and meaningful experiences that help children fulfil their potential. Excellent methods are used to support and develop children's communication skills. Staff have developed books that contain pictorial messages that children are using effectively to communicate their needs to their key worker. In addition, sign language supports and enhances the methods of communication used so that children are beginning to make choices and decisions.

Careful, forward planning means that children access a wide and exciting range of activities during outings. Children are well prepared in advance to take part in new experiences to maximise their effect as pleasurable learning experiences. For example, detailed informative letters that contain text and photographs to prepare children for an outing to riding stables so that children benefit from and enjoy the sensations of being in close proximity to the animals.

Children take part with pleasure, delight and enthusiasm as they participate in trampoline lessons, they smile laugh and embrace the activity with gusto. They enjoy

the open space and explore the sensation of running and spinning. Children are growing in confidence as they take part in such activities because staff know each child and their capabilities exceptionally well, they give children encouragement and praise and celebrate achievements with the children with great joy.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is outstanding.

Children spend their time in a welcoming environment that gives high value and excellent acknowledgement of each child as an individual. Extensive, extremely meaningful information is recorded in respect of each child. Home visits prior to every child's admission promotes the smooth transition between home and playscheme so that children settle and stress is minimised. Careful planning and preparation means that every child has access to the range of activities that are provided. Daily outings mean that children are finding out about the wider world and are beginning to effectively take part in their community. Children's religious and cultural needs are met well, for example, as staff work with parents to help a child learn to sign a prayer that the family say together.

Staff have high, realistic expectations of children's behaviour and support children very well so that they are learning to deal with a range of feelings and are becoming accepting of behavioural rules and boundaries. For example, as they prepare for outings and wait their turn on the trampoline. Staff have an excellent understanding of behaviour management. They take part in regular training and use their learning experiences very well to effectively support children, using a range of techniques that help diffuse situations and avoid distress, for example, one to one sessions when children and staff work together in a calm and quiet environment.

Partnership with parents is excellent. Parents are kept well informed about the playscheme and what their children do. A good, high quality information brochure outlines aims, objectives and the policies and procedures that underpin the very good care provided. Parents take part in regular, meaningful questionnaires, their responses are valued and used to help inform future planning and activities. Parents are able to access a range of other services that are provided and work alongside staff which effectively enhances the care children receive in the playscheme.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The playscheme is extremely well organised so that children benefit from the whole of the provision that is made for them. The high staff-child ratio means that children very often benefit from one-on-one care promoting their individual needs and wellbeing at all times. Solid recruitment and selection procedures mean that staff selection is underpinned by the unique needs of the children who attend the setting. The staff team are very well led and managed, they receive regular access to supervision and take part enthusiastically in an excellent, wide and varied range of training opportunities that continually develop the provision made for the children in

their care. Staff are highly committed and well motivated, they have a very good understanding of their roles and responsibilities so that sessions run smoothly.

Policies and procedures are extensive, very well written and meaningful. Staff revisit the policies on a regular basis so that they are a working document, they are continually reviewed and updated to promote the exceptional care that is given. The advisory group, including community paediatrician, senior social worker and educational psychologist meet quarterly to discuss the needs of the children and current developments, so that overall the provision meets the needs of all children who attend.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report. 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):

- ensure accident records are signed by parents to acknowledge that information has been shared
- ensure that the child protection policy shows the procedure to be followed should an allegation be made against a member of staff.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)