



Arty Crafts Workshop Playscheme at The Scout Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector Heidi Falconer

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Type of inspection Childcare
Type of care 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.

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Arty Crafts Workshop Playscheme is one of two settings which are privately run. It opened in 1998 and operates from the scout hut in the grounds of Newnham Croft Primary School, situated in the town of Cambridge. A maximum of 35 children may attend the playscheme at any one time. The playscheme is open each weekday from 09:00 till 15:30 during all school holidays with the exception of the May half-term. All children have access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 76 children from 5 to 11 years on roll. Children come from both the local area and further afield. The playscheme employs six staff. The manager

holds an appropriate early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment where appropriate procedures are in place to promote their good health. Staff ensure that all areas are clean before children eat and they encourage them to wash their hands before lunch and after using the toilet. This develops children's understanding of good personal hygiene routines. Generally, suitable measures are taken when children are ill so that their health needs are met. For example, appropriate procedures are in place for recording accidents and the group obtain consent from parents to seek medical advice or treatment in the event of an emergency. However, at times the group have used antiseptic wipes to clean wounds and applied plasters to children without prior permission from the parents. In addition, the contents of the first aid box has not been checked frequently to ensure that the contents are suitable to use. This compromises children's health and safety.

Parents provide the majority of food and drink for their children. Staff provide parents with good information on their facilities for storing these foods. As a result, parents pack children's lunch boxes with ice packs to ensure that all food is stored safely. Staff eat with the children and meal times are social, happy times where the staff and children discuss what they have made and what they will be doing later. Children confidently access drinks and know that they can ask staff for a drink when they are thirsty.

Children take part in a range of physical activities which contribute to their good health. There is a large outdoor area that they use and they have access to a suitable range of outdoor equipment. For example, low-level stilts, balls and hoops. Staff join in with the outdoor activities such as playing football with the children, extending their experiences and helping them to develop their play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a spacious room which allows them plenty of space to move and play freely. The accessibility of well maintained resources and equipment means the children can move around freely to independently choose the resources they wish to use to create their drawings and models.

Children's safety is protected because staff are vigilant in ensuring that the premises are secure, so that they are unable to leave the premises unsupervised. Staff are aware of the need to conduct a premises check before children arrive to ensure the premises are safe. However, these visual risk assessments are not always effective at identifying all potential risks, such as accessible plug sockets. This compromises children's safety.

Children are kept well informed as to how they can keep themselves safe. At the start of each day staff remind children of the safety rules at the group such as not running indoors and what they should do in the event of a fire.

Children's well-being is safeguarded because most staff have a sound understanding of their role in child protection. They are aware of the procedures to follow should they have a concern regarding any child in their care. However, the group's written child protection policy does not contain information on the procedures which would be followed to protect children in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The group predominantly provides children with a wide range of creative activities which helps to develop their knowledge, skills and interest in art. Children enjoy activities such as learning different techniques of drawing, for example, shading, creating shadows and making shapes look three dimensional. In addition they have daily opportunities to create models from different materials such as using paper and wire to make peacocks or clay and sticks to make rabbits. Staff give children group demonstrations on using different techniques and then support the children well in developing their own ideas about how their creations should look. This develops children's confidence and allows them to develop their creative skills, interpreting their ideas freely.

All children in the playscheme spend their time purposefully, helping to devise and choose group games to play and offering their ideas about what they would like to learn to draw in their Arty Crafts drawing books each day. Staff plan different weekly themes for the children, and provide objects, pictures and books to illustrate the theme so that children can use them for reference when making their own pieces of work. During the inspection the children were making hedgehogs and rabbits with clay, they proudly show their creations to visitors, parents and staff members which helps to raise the children's self-esteem.

In addition to art-based activities children enjoy playing outdoors and joining in group games such as fruit salad, spat and heads down thumbs up. Children play well together and happily interact with the staff. They confidently choose resources throughout the session which demonstrates that they are confident and settled at the group. Children speak highly of the group and many attend on a regular basis.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to access all activities. Staff ensure that all children are encouraged and supported, so that they can take part in the experiences and activities on offer regardless of their age or ability. This ensures that children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and develop a sense of belonging at the group. There

are currently no children on role who have special educational needs. However, there are appropriate procedures in place to ensure that all children with special needs would be recognised and supported appropriately according to their needs.

Children are well behaved. They learn what is expected of them because staff implement the setting's behaviour policy consistently. As a consequence, children understand the need for rules, to ensure that they are kept safe.

Parents and children are warmly welcomed into the setting. Staff are always available to talk to parents, ensuring that children's individual needs are understood and met appropriately. Written policies and information about the setting are available for parents on a daily basis. These keep parents informed of the service they provide, allowing them to make informed decisions about the care of their child.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are warmly welcomed into the setting, which is prepared each day before they arrive, thus creating a caring and stimulating environment. As a result, children separate from their carers easily and quickly become involved in activities such as making name badges as they arrive. Staff generally work well together and are deployed effectively to ensure that all children are supported in their activities and supervised well at all times.

All of the required policies and procedures are in place and available to parents. These are generally well implemented to promote positive outcomes for children, however, some policies are out of date, do not contain sufficient detail and do not always reflect the practice in the group. Most of the documentation is available on the premises, however, records relating to staff are not kept on the premises due to a lack of secure storage.

Although the registered person ensures that all submit to the relevant vetting procedures to ensure children's safety, the recruitment procedures do not ensure staff have suitable qualifications for the posts assigned. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting agreed to improve children's safety by addressing the potential danger caused by the unsecured front door. The setting has fitted a lock to the door and it no longer poses a risk to children. The setting has also improved their systems for recording children's attendance to ensure that there is an accurate record of children's times of arrival, departure and any absences. This has a positive impact on their safety in the event of an emergency.

At the last inspection the setting was asked to ensure that their child protection policy complied with local Area Child Protection Committee procedures. This is currently being reviewed to ensure that it contains all of the necessary detail so that staff are

familiar with the correct procedures to follow to protect children's welfare.

The setting was also asked to keep a written record of all any medication administered to children. The setting has a policy not to administer medication but demonstrate an understanding of the records which they would need to be kept if they did give any medication to children. This knowledge is supporting children's good health. The setting agreed to ensure that their equal opportunities and special needs policies are consistent with current legislation and guidance. Since the last inspection these have been reviewed and updated.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004. 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 satisfactory. 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):

- develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare
- provide an appropriately stocked first aid box, the contents of which are checked frequently and replaced as necessary
- ensure that all policies are up to date, inline with current guidelines and contain sufficient detail. This relates specifically to policies on behaviour, child protection, complaints and lost or uncollected children.

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