



Kingsgate Hall Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 144610

Inspection date 20 February 2006

Inspector Maxine Rose

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Type of inspection Childcare

Type of care Sessional 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kingsgate Hall Playgroup opened over 15 years ago it is managed by a parent run committee. It operates from a community hall situated in the Kingsgate Hall Estate in the Dalston area of the London Borough of Hackney. There is a secure outdoor play area.

The setting is registered to provide care for a maximum of 16 children at any one

time. The group operate from 09:30 to 12:00 , Monday to Friday, all year round, closing for 1 week at Christmas and Easter and for 4 weeks in the Summer.

The play group employs 2 play leaders both hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are kept healthy by eating a balanced diet and by maintaining appropriate standards of personal hygiene. The children practise washing their hands before meals to prevent the spread of cross infection. They are served nutritious snacks that are prepared at the setting. Children enjoy a tasty selection of fresh fruit and have the choice of milk, juice and water to drink to keep them hydrated throughout the day. Children's choice of healthy food is extended when they take part in practical cooking activities. Children make cakes out of cereals which are fortified with essential vitamins and are suitable for keeping bones and teeth strong. The children use a range of resources to develop their finer motor skills. They are becoming more dexterous as they handle small objects such as pencils, scissors and utensils for stirring cake mixtures. Indoors the children have fun developing their gross physical skills as they climb up and down the climbing frame, balance on the bars and coordinate their movements as they crawl through the tunnel and descend the slide. Outdoors the children have sufficient space in which to use their tricycles, scooters, bat and balls. Children's health is fostered well by staff that have knowledge of first aid and how to administer medicines appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment that is well maintained in most areas. Their work is attractively displayed around the setting, this adds interest and creates a welcoming space for them to enjoy. Indoors the children move safely around the setting to undertake a range of worthwhile activities made possible by the good organisation of furniture and resources. The children select well maintained resources such as books, construction sets and creative materials from tables and shelves that are positioned at low levels to enable easy access for them. The staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of ways to ensure children's safety. They are well deployed within the setting to supervise the children during their activities. Children are made aware of ways to play safely as staff remind them not to stand on the furniture in case they fall. Other safety measures include secure locks on windows and doors to prevent children leaving the premises unsupervised. Some safety features are not implemented effectively, including the recording of accidents and incidents. Children are further safeguarded from harm by the groups child protection procedures and staff's awareness of the signs of abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children have a relaxing and enjoyable time at the setting. They are keen to learn and work purposefully to complete tasks either independently or with an adult. Staff do not plan using the guidance of the Birth to three matters framework. However, in practice staff do provide meaningful learning experiences for the children to help them make progress in all areas of their learning and development. The children have access to a balanced programme of activities. They develop self confidence as they make choices, access resources easily and learn new skills on the computer. Children enjoy the challenge of problem solving tasks such as puzzles and are supported well by the staff who question them effectively and encourage them to think about what they are doing. The children respond well to the staff and feel at ease to approach them either for reassurance or to involve them in their play.

The staff show an interest in the children and provide good opportunities for them to develop their social skills in group activities. Most children feel at ease to express their needs and share their experiences during one to one discussions and group activities, for example storytelling. The children delight in books and listen attentively to stories where they extend their vocabulary as they learn new words and recognise their name on labels. At times some activities are not planned effectively to give children sufficient time to use language to communicate their feelings and ideas. The children use their imagination creatively when drawing, painting, cutting, sticking and cooking. They have fun when using all their senses to smell, touch and taste the chocolate in the cake mixture. The children feel valued as they are commended by the staff for their efforts. Each day the children select resources that positively develop their physical skills. They enjoy building with 'construction' sets and play endlessly with the indoor climbing apparatus to perfect their balance control and coordination.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The staff plan activities well to enable the children to work independently or in groups. The children are learning to work together harmoniously as they share and take turns with resources when making cakes and building with wooden blocks. The staff know the children well and are pro-active in ensuring all children have an equal chance to take part in activities. For example, when cooking all the children have a chance to prepare the ingredients and stir the mixture. The group have useful systems for monitoring children's progress and have clear procedures for how children with special educational needs can be fully integrated in the setting. This helps to ensure children receive the appropriate support and feel valued. The partnership with parents is good. The parents are kept informed about the setting and their children's progress in practical ways, for example through newsletters, a notice board and curriculum plans. There are also good opportunities for parents to exchange information with the staff at the beginning and the end of the day. The book borrowing club helps to strengthen links with parents and extends children's

learning experiences.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children benefit from a well organised child centred environment where they can easily access play equipment due to effective storage and positioning of resources. Children have sufficient space within and outside the setting to enjoy a multitude of activities which include role play in the home corner, reading books, building models, investigating computers and riding tricycles. The staff demonstrate a sound understanding of the National Standards for Day Care. Procedures relating to maintaining children's records, staff recruitment, induction, training, children's admissions and settling-in work well in practice. However, some records, for instance consent for emergency treatment, are not well maintained. The staff work well as a team and have a positive attitude to supporting and safeguarding children's welfare in most areas. They are able to access relevant training through local schemes which help children to make progress. The children enjoy purposeful interaction with the staff, owed to good deployment that ensures they spend their time effectively with the children. The setting meets the needs of all the children for whom it provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

The provider has made progress since the last inspection. Children's activities are planned to ensure they have meaningful learning experiences. The children actively take part in routine tasks that promote their independence and self help skills such as selecting resources, sorting equipment and clearing tables after snack time. They enjoy creative activities that enable them to use their senses and express their ideas in imaginative ways such as cooking. They enjoy the challenge of problem solving tasks such as puzzles and investigating the computer.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are 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.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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 the record for maintaining accidents and incidents uphold appropriate standards of confidentiality
- provide sufficient time within activities for children to use language to express their needs and ideas
- ensure procedures include obtaining consent from parents for emergency treatment.

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