



Ashmoor Mini Madness

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY279619 |
| Inspection date | 17 August 2005 |
| Inspector | Christine Slaney |
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| Registered person | Teignbridge District Council |
| 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?

Ashmoor Mini Madness playscheme opened in 2004. It operates at Ashmoor Recreation Centre on the site of South Dartmoor Community College, in the Moorland town of Ashburton.

Children have access to the gymnasium, small activity room, male and female toilets and outdoor courts. The premises have full disabled access. The playscheme is registered to care for up to 24 children aged from 4 to 8 years. It is open from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday, school holidays only.

Children who have special needs are welcomed into the setting as are children who have English as an additional language. There are currently 44 children on roll, some of whom have special needs.

The playscheme is managed by Teignbridge District Council and employees both part-time and full-time workers. The playscheme supervisor is full-time and qualified.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a variety of physical play activities and make good use of the recreation centre's gymnasium. They enjoy trips to a local swimming pool and play bat and ball games, which help them develop skills, such as good hand and eye co-ordination.

Children are cared for in warm, clean premises. They are developing an understanding of the importance of personal hygiene through suitable care routines, such as hand washing before lunchtime. However, this is not consistently reinforced at all routine activities like snack time.

Overall children's health is promoted through the implementation of clear policies and procedures, including medication routines; staff knowledge of first aid, and the implementation of appropriate accident forms, that are signed by parents. Children are provided with regular opportunities to enjoy snack and lunch times, although this is reliant on parents' understanding of healthy eating. Children are not encouraged to develop their understanding of their own bodies' needs, for example through topics, such as healthy eating and drinking.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Overall, children are cared for in a safe environment, which is welcoming and bright. There are some examples of children's own work on display and some information for parents. Children are cared for, and entertained by, staff who are suitable and qualified.

Children feel welcome and confident to explore the environment. However, they are not always encouraged to be aware of safety issues. For example, their bags and shoes cause an obstruction as they block fire exits and doorways. Children enjoy appropriately planned day trips, including swimming and trips to the zoo.

Children's safety is promoted through the staff's knowledge of child development and awareness of appropriate child protection procedures. They use a suitable range of equipment, which is age appropriate. They access some equipment and resources freely for themselves, such as paper and pens.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settle quickly on arrival and choose from a suitable range of free play activities. They are engaged and interested in the activities. They play both independently, and in small groups. They participate in some appropriately challenging activities, for example bouncy castles. Children are confident and spontaneously talk about their experiences. Their excitement at mastering the skills of plaiting coloured string is shared with adults present. They are encouraged to develop appropriate social skills, for instance sharing equipment such as cars and trains. As a consequence, children are relaxed and have a sense of belonging within the setting. They are developing good levels of confidence and self-esteem, for instance spontaneously making a den out of soft foam shapes.

Children are developing an understanding of different kinds of relationships, for example they play alongside others when colouring, or play in small groups when making a den.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel valued and fully included within the setting and children with special educational needs are supported well. They are provided with one-to-one support where needed. Children are starting to develop a sense of belonging because of the suitable routines like snack time and lunchtime. Fresh water is available in jugs and children are able to ask for a drink when thirsty. However their independence is limited by the organisation of some routines, such as having snacks all at the same time. This also does not encourage children's understanding of how to respond to their body's needs.

Overall, staff and parents work together to meet the needs of the children. Staff are clear about children's capabilities, for example while swimming. Parents receive some information about the provision, such as a programme of activities. However written permission for water based activities such as swimming, is not clearly requested from parents. The certificate of registration is not displayed in a prominent position, to enable parents to be aware of the conditions of registration.

Children's understanding of acceptable behaviour is generally promoted well by staff who use appropriate methods to encourage positive behaviour. Nevertheless, methods are not consistently used by all staff, for example children are not always encouraged to sit down to eat their lunch and snacks. There is, however, a calm and relaxed atmosphere, where children are starting to accept responsibility for their own actions with support from staff. They are clear about some rules, such as washing hands before lunch. Good behaviour certificates are also used to reinforce acceptable behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children are supported appropriately with suitable systems to help them settle in. In general, the operational plan works in practice. For example, staffing ratios are met and the children are developing an understanding of the setting's routines. Staff discuss and plan appropriate experiences and activities. Children thoroughly enjoy experiences like swimming. Overall, the managers are developing a suitable understanding of the setting's strengths and weakness.

Staff members occasionally attend training courses to develop their knowledge and understanding of how children learn through play. Staff support each other appropriately and are committed to improvement. However, they lack understanding of the National Standards. As a result, although relevant policies are in place, some paperwork is limited and does not clearly inform parents of policies and procedures, such as the uncollected child policy.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 there has been one complaint relating to National Standard 6: Safety, in regard to the security of the premises.

Ofsted asked the provider to investigate the complaint. The provider submitted a report and provided details of their investigation, including details of action to be taken.

From the information that Ofsted received, there appeared to be no evidence that the National Standards were not being maintained and the provider remains qualified for registration.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

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| The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding. |
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| WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT? |
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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 storage of children's bags and shoes do not present a hazard to children
- ensure that parents have appropriate information about the provision by, displaying the registration certificate, sharing the policy on uncollected children and requesting written permission from parents, for relevant trips such as swimming
- increase staff's knowledge and understanding of Children Act regulations and the National Standards.

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