



Addiscombe Childcare Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY288562
Inspection date	01 November 2005
Inspector	Diane Henry
Setting Address	Davidson Junior School, Dartnell Road, Addiscombe, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 6JA
Telephone number	0208 655 3150
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Registered person	Croydon Play Plus
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Addiscombe Childcare Centre is 1 of 5 after school clubs managed by Play Plus. Play Plus is a charitable organisation working to provide supervised play activities for primary school children in the Borough of Croydon.

The club opened in 2000 and operates from the dining hall in Davidson Junior school. The group also have use of a creative area, office, designated children's toilet and cloakroom facilities and the school's outdoor play area. The club does not have sole use of the premises during session times.

A maximum of 70 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 15.00 to 18.00 term time. The centre also offers a holiday playscheme during the summer school holidays which opens from 08.00 to 18.00. This inspection focused on the after school provision.

There are currently 45 children aged 4 to 11 years on roll. The club currently supports 3 children with special educational needs and a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs 11 staff, 6 of the staff including the manager hold appropriate child care qualifications. There are 2 staff working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children thrive in an environment where they have a good balance of healthy food and plenty of exercise. Children participate in a good variety of activities to enhance their physical development. They enjoy playing on fixed play equipment in the school playground and join in with team games, for example rounders, which are organised by staff.

Children benefit from a healthy diet and their individual dietary needs are respected. They enjoy varied and nutritious meals and weekly menus are displayed. Mealtimes are a sociable occasion, when the children all sit together and interact in a friendly manner .

Children are protected from the spread of infection and are learning about self-care through careful hand washing routines and clear guidance from staff.

Children's wellbeing is safeguarded with suitable measures in place to record accidents and keep parents informed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment, where risks are identified and minimized. Good use is made of the accommodation available which allows children to move around freely, independently choosing from a wide range of interesting activities. The broad range of toys and equipment is suitable for all the children attending and provides sufficient interest and challenge for them.

Risk assessments are used effectively to ensure children's safety. Children are well supervised and staff give children's safety a high priority. Staff are vigilant in carrying out safety procedures to keep children safe while at the centre and during school collection. For example, all staff wear identity badges and Play Plus have a rigorous system in place to ensure staff driving the mini bus are suitable to do so.

Children's wellbeing is protected with clear written child protection procedures and a staff group who understand their responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into the group by friendly staff, they settle quickly to the activities on offer and confidently make independent choices. Children enjoy a good balance of activities ranging from large physical play to creative play and opportunities for quiet times. For example, when reading a story with a member of staff on a one to one basis.

Children express themselves creatively through interesting art and craft activities, which engage their interest and are linked to a theme or topic. They are pleased with their success and take their work home to share with their parents.

Children feel secure and confident at the centre due to good relationships with a staff team who know them well and take an active interest in their play. Children relate well to each other and play cooperatively when taking part in activities such as board games and role play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel secure and have a sense of belonging because they are cared for in a setting which celebrates diversity and ensures all children are included. The setting won an award for 'Inclusive Childcare Team of the Year' in June of this year. This is an award presented by the Local Authority in partnership with Sure Start. Children with special needs are welcomed into the setting, their individual needs are met due to a manager and staff team who are proactive in finding out about a child's needs and who work closely with parents. The centre employs a special needs worker who has attended relevant training and works with the manager and parents to develop individual action plans for the children.

Children are learning about the wider world and different cultures through well planned activities provided by the centre. For example, the children learn about the Hindu festival of Diwali, with support from displays, creative activities and knowledgeable staff.

Children behave well and respond positively to the clear and consistent boundaries set by staff. They play cooperatively with each other, taking turns and sharing. Children show respect for systems which are in place to ensure everyone has a fair turn, for example, when playing on the computer.

Children benefit from positive relationships between their parents and the staff at the centre. Parents are kept well informed about the setting through written procedures from Play Plus, regular newsletters from the centre manager and friendly exchanges with staff at the end of the session. There are satisfactory written procedures in place

for parents in the event that they wish to make a complaint, however a written record of complaints and the response to the complainant is not kept. Where there are weaknesses the centre manger is keen to address these.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for by an experienced staff team who are suitably qualified and vetted. The manger is keen to ensure that the centre keeps up-to-date with all aspects of childcare and good use is made of training opportunities provided by the Local Authority.

Good use is made of the accommodation available and the session is well organised which enables the children to enjoy a wide range of interesting activities while at the centre. They benefit from ample amounts of adult attention due to knowledgeable staff who are effectively deployed.

Written policies and procedures are used effectively by staff to ensure children's wellbeing is safeguarded. The centre has all relevant records required by the National Standards which ensures the safety of the children and the smooth running of the centre.

Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been 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

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):

- keep a record of complaints made by parents which they can see on request.

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