



Rowdown Childcare Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY288565
Inspection date	16 August 2005
Inspector	Kay Bateson

Setting Address	Rowdown Primary School Annexe, Calley Down Crescent, New Addington, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 0EG
Telephone number	01689 846194
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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Rowdown Childcare Centre was originally opened in 1993 and has changed the charitable status in 2004. The centre is one of a number of out of school and holiday play facilities run by Croydon Play plus. It operates from an annex at Rowdown school and is open to all families in the local community of New Addington. It has a mini bus that is used to transport children from nearby schools as well as on outings during the holiday period. Children have the opportunity to participate in a variety of age appropriate activities, provision is made for homework and they are taken on regular outings during the holidays.

They are registered for after school and holiday care for no more than 43 children aged 4-8 and currently have 33 children under 8 on roll. Children up to 11 also attend the setting and they attend a variety of sessions. The centre currently supports children with special needs and have facilities for children and adults with disabilities. Some children attending are in receipt of funding from Social Services.

The centre opens 5 days a week during the school term time from 15:00 to 18:00. It is open during the school holidays from 8:00 to 18:00. It is not open on bank holidays, during the Christmas holiday and the first two weeks of the summer holiday.

The centre is a member of the four Kids Network. There are six full time and six part time staff that work with the children. At least half the current number of full time staff have child care and play-work qualifications, equivalent to NVQ level three or two. There are two staff members are currently working towards a recognised child care qualification. The centre receives support and training from the Croydon Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in clean, warm premises with adequate ventilation, hand washing and toilet facilities. They learn about and demonstrate good hygiene practices and personal care, through their daily routine. The staff members promote children's learning through encouraging, demonstrating and modelling good hygiene practices themselves. This encourages children to develop good understanding of keeping themselves safe from infection by washing and cleaning.

Children benefit from having the opportunity to play outside. They enjoy using the climbing apparatus and the trim trail on the school premises; also they look forward to go on the outings in the mini bus to alternative outdoor venues. They enjoy going to Christmas tree Farm, Crystal Palace Park and Battersea Park for the day.

Children are presently playing with a limited supply of outside play equipment; as they wait for new equipment to arrive. Staff members sometimes plan organised games and activities when children ask and like to join in with the games children invent. This ensures their physical skills of throwing and catching are still being developed.

Older children are aware of their own needs when they actively play in hotter weather. They know the importance of when to rest and when to have drinks to avoid becoming ill. Younger children learn about caring for their needs by the staff reminding them to wear hats, play out of the hot sun, to have regular drinks and rest when feeling tired. The staff follow sound procedures, when dealing with accidents and administering medication. This ensures the overall welfare and safety of children is fully supported.

Children demonstrate and master good control of small tools and equipment through the opportunities provided by the staff. This encourages children to develop good skills using hand and eye co-ordination. This was apparent when watching children use the scissors to cut out figures, operating the decorative hole punches and the controls of the play-station.

Children experience a social occasion for meal times and snacks and learn about the benefits of a healthy diet through discussion. Staff sit with them whilst they eat their lunch or snack and are heard talking about food, what is better to eat and what is not.

Children have sufficient nourishment with the regular snacks and drinks provided by the Staff. Parents are encouraged to include healthy options in their packed lunches and the cooked snacks the group provides, includes some healthy options. A variety of options are planned in advance over a four week period, considering the individual dietary needs of the children, as well as their likes and dislikes. The manager is considering introducing more healthy options within their limited budget.

Children's health could be at risk, from the spread of infection and by the unsuitable type of permanent hand drying equipment currently being used. Children and staff are not able to fully dry their hands as the cotton hand towel becomes wet quickly. Several children were seen using the same towel each time they use the toilet, before eating and after craft activities. This present method increases the risk of cross-contamination and the spread of infection between the children and staff. The manager agreed to provide a more appropriate material for hand drying in the future.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a self-contained building that is safe and secure. There is plenty of space for children to play on the floor, at the tables with games and art activities. They have extra floor space in the entrance hall for larger floor games. The staff follow the suitable procedures in place to keep children safe from the risk of fire and from hazards on the premises. They have regular fire evacuation practices and remove broken toys or equipment immediately.

Children understand and are developing a good awareness of keeping themselves safe when on outings, through the suitable procedures the staff follow and documentation in place. Children wear identification badges, staff have a list of children's names, contact details and emergency contact numbers of parents. The staff have a sound awareness and knowledge of dealing with child protection issues and procedures. This ensures the children are kept safe from harm at all times.

Children are developing a sound awareness of keeping themselves safe while on the premises by the staff reminding them of potential hazards when using equipment such as when using scissors. They learn about protecting themselves from the effects of heat and hot sunshine, by the staff members reminding them to wear hats, to have plenty of drinks and to seek cooler places when feeling hot. Also, they are learning about keeping safe when taking safe risks when climbing on the trim trail or turning upside down on the climbing frame as staff members closely supervises

them. The children are generally unable to leave the premises unnoticed as the entrance door requires a code, doors to unsupervised areas are closed, and outside gates have padlocks in place. However, staff are not always vigilant on checking that the outside gate is locked and children do not wander into unsupervised rooms inside.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at the centre; they enter happily and are quick to settle at their chosen task. They choose tasks and activities that occupy them and soon become involved in them for long periods of time. They enjoy initiating games and craft activities that many other children share and become interested in. Children are encouraged to suggest ideas and staff members support their spontaneous ideas by providing them with the necessary materials if available. Therefore, valuing the children ideas, raising the children's self-esteem and confidence; this in turn motivates them to learn.

Children benefit from the opportunities of regular trips and outings during the week. They can choose to go on as many trips as they want to and staff pay careful attention to making sure that all children have an opportunity of going as places are limited. Children enjoy having this opportunity of going to places of interest and fun, which contribute to their learning and physical development.

Children are able to have free access to the available toys and equipment. They are encouraged to make choices and requests for specific activities, toys or equipment they want to use. There is sufficient amount of toys and equipment available in reasonably sound condition. The extra outdoor play equipment has been ordered but as yet not arrived, some books need repairing and there is a small selection of stories for the mature reader. Therefore, opportunities for developing physical skills, reading and using reference books to extend their ideas are limited.

Staff work hard to plan ideas for craft and game activities but are seldom completed. They ask the children if they want to do them before setting them up and often the replies reflect a lack of interest. There is no current planning of activities and games for the outside area. Therefore, there are limited opportunities for children to have a balance of adult planned activities, which provide stimulating challenges for all ages of children. This was apparent when an adult made badges for the outing the next day, children became interested in what she was doing and were later seen making their own. Children's involvement and creative thinking increased when staff introduced new materials to use.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel welcomed, fully valued, respected and treated as individuals. Staff provide sufficient resources that reflect the varied ethnic backgrounds of the children

and make sure all children are included in activities. This is apparent in the arrangement for outings, craft activities, using play station and having the pictures of the children on display in the centre. A trained member of staff works with the children with special needs helping them to join in activities, achieve their ideas successfully and play harmoniously with other children. This ensures all children are fully included into the group.

Children's social skills are being developed by the way staff encourage them to play well together, take turns, share and be aware of the needs of the younger children. Staff foster the children's independence skills when they pour their own drinks, help clear up tables after eating and be responsible for putting toys away after use.

Children play a very active part in the running of the program. They like to suggest ideas for games and activities that staff members support by providing materials or equipment needed, joining in with an activity, or taking them out to the place of their choice. Staff members fully interact with the children; they enjoy playing, talking and joining in with their play ideas. This ensures children and staff develop good relationships, therefore children feel happy, confident and secure while away from their parents.

Children behave well; they are polite, friendly and willingly comply with requests and instructions from staff. They have a clear understanding of adult expectations as they are encouraged to listen and follow group rules of keeping themselves safe whilst in their care. Children have clear and consistent behaviour boundaries at all times. The staff give simple, clear explanations to children so that they fully understand the reason for any 'time-out' given. They give lots of praise and encourage the children's achievements, this develops and raises their self-esteem.

Children are enjoying their time at the holiday play-scheme at the centre and the parents are very happy with the care their child is receiving. They are pleased their children want to come and find the staff very approachable, understanding and supportive. The Staff have established good working relationships with the present parents. They regularly inform parents of events, changes and arrangements in the form of a newsletter or note. They ensure parents read this information as their child could be missed out on a special event happening, a planned outing or become worried when there is a change of staff on duty.

The staff maintains the safety and welfare of the children by having all the required parent agreement forms signed. Also, in the way they comfort them when they become upset and help solve issues when conflicts arise. Staff have suitable policies and procedures in place to follow when organising outings and trips for children. This ensures that children are kept safe while off site with staff. However, unclear details about the destination of the local trips, which are planned at short notice, means parents ability to make emergency contact is hindered.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children enjoy playing in a well planned and purpose built premises, with plenty of

space around outside for outdoor games and activities. They benefit from having a daily routine with a balance of quiet and active times, snacks, drinks and meals. This is due to the staff's sound attention to planning the day around the needs and ages of the children.

Children keep safe and are well cared by staff following the sound procedures, policies and agreements that are in place. There is a firm arrival and departure system, clear record of accidents and administering medication and the staff check parents keep children's details updated.

Children are well supported and cared for by a sufficient number of staff; that are happy, supportive and work well together. This ensures children feel happy, safe and emotionally secure while attending the centre. Half of the full time staff hold qualifications in child care and the manager encourages her staff to attend training that will enhance their knowledge, understanding and practice in play work. Therefore, children will benefit in many ways from having well informed and trained staff.

Children could be at risk and their welfare not supported when needing medical attention. This is due to the low number of staff with current training and certificates in first aid that are on duty at any one time. The manager is aware that the group needs to increase the number of staff trained in first aid on site and is waiting for confirmation of her application for training.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The setting has had a change of status, therefore the last inspection was conducted under the previous registration number and several recommendations and actions were made.

The setting was asked to ensure there were sufficient numbers of staff working with the children, to improve the organisation of meal times, and for the person in charge to achieve a level 3 qualification. These have been addressed fully and children benefit from good levels of staffing ratios, meals times being held in an organised area and well informed manager on child care and play work.

The setting was asked to provide staff support for children with special needs, maintain a record of children's attendance and provide at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate to be on the premises or on outings at any one time. Children with special needs are well supported by the trained member of staff that is present daily, and children are kept safe by the sound arrival and departure system now in place. Staff had been trained in first aid but certificates are now out of date. This means that children can be on the premises with no staff member holding a current first aid certificate, which has an impact on the children's overall welfare in the event of an accident.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report

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):

- improve the hand drying facilities to ensure children are kept free from infection and cross contamination.
- ensure children do not have access to unsupervised areas and the outside area is secure at all times.
- maintain a balanced program of in and outdoor activities for all children.
- ensure enough staff are qualified in first aid to ensure that at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate is on the premises or on outings at any one time.

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