



Rainbow Special Needs Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY283355
Inspection date 02 August 2005
Inspector Paula Jane Hayhow

Setting Address Lady Zia Wernher School, Ashcroft Road, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 9AY
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Registered person Lady Zia Wernher Parent & Friends Association
Type of inspection Childcare
Type of care Full day 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?

Rainbow Special Needs Playscheme was opened in 2004.

It is registered for 25 children aged from three to under eight years. Care is also provided for older children, usually ex-pupils of the school, and, in exceptional circumstances, for siblings of pupils. There is no overnight care provided.

The play scheme operates from Lady Zia Wernher School in Luton. The premises includes a hall, several classrooms, a sensory room and splash room. There is also a heated swimming pool available. There are several secure play areas for outdoor

activities.

There are currently 33 children on roll. Most of the children who attend have special needs and the group can support children who speak English as an additional language. Children can attend on a variety of sessions.

The play scheme runs from 09.00 to 17.00 daily, Monday to Friday during the school holidays.

There are 36 members of staff working with the children. Twentyfour staff, including the managers, hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two staff members are working towards a relevant child care qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment. They have access to a wide range of activities and there is sufficient space to accommodate wheelchairs and appropriate equipment. This enables the children to explore a range of movements and to develop their physical skill to their full potential. Children enjoy a variety of physical activities, which promote their good health. These include swimming, stretching and use of equipment such as wheelchair-swing and roundabout in the outdoor play area. This is helping them to enjoy the use of their bodies and improve their spatial awareness.

Children's health is promoted as they are offered options such as fruit and easily chewable items at snack time. Children's special requirements with regard to health and diet are well documented and met and parent's wishes are respected. Their independence is consistently promoted as they are encouraged to help themselves with their physical care, such as helping with showering before swimming time and holding their own drinks at meal times. The children's medical needs are well met as there is a nurse available and a high number of staff who hold first aid qualifications.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and secure environment. Their safety is given a high priority. Staff have a practical understanding of identifying hazards and taking steps to minimise these. They carry out a daily risk assessment to ensure all areas are safe for children to use. Children's safety is further enhanced through thorough and practical procedures which cover all areas and are adhered to on a daily basis. However, their safety may be compromised as they could have access to cleaning materials stored in low level areas.

Children are aided in selecting toys and activities from a wide range of high quality and specially designed play materials. For example, staff present extra play

resources such as lego pieces close enough for children to reach and use. They are very well supervised by staff who ensure that the resources are appropriate for the ages and developmental stages of the children. Their welfare is promoted as there is an appropriate child protection policy and staff have a clear understanding of the procedure to use should they suspect abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and enjoy their time at the playscheme. They are confident in their relationships with staff and happy to participate in the play opportunities offered. They enjoy a stimulating range of activities that cover all areas of development. These are often tailored to individual children's likes and interests as staff actively seek parents' views about these and plan accordingly. Children are able to relax and enjoy their time at the setting as there is a clear recognition that this is a holiday scheme, with an emphasis on having fun. However, this is well balanced with opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities to extend children's learning.

Children's overall development is promoted because staff have a good understanding of child development and make use of the Birth to Three Matters framework when planning activities. All children are offered appropriate challenge as staff are skilled in encouraging them to be as independent as possible. Staff are particularly attentive and know the children well. This ensures that activities are always adapted so that children are able to meaningfully participate. Children's active participation is further promoted as there is a flexible approach to planning and children move from one group to another, according to the activity and the child's particular interests and needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected and staff ensure that specific individual needs are well documented and met. All children are able to fully participate in the opportunities offered. The staff offer sensitive support ensuring that all have opportunities to access and enjoy the resources. Children are beginning to learn to share and to help each other, such as helping one another to put on swimming arm bands. Children's behaviour is generally good and they are confident within the setting. The staff have a sound understanding of the importance of setting consistent and appropriate boundaries for all children. Children's behaviour is well managed as the staff use appropriate methods such as distraction, explaining issues and building self-esteem by reinforcing positive behaviour.

Children's welfare is promoted by a positive relationship with parents. They are kept well informed of their child's progress and daily activities through the use of home communication books, policies, letters and personal telephone calls if necessary. This enables the children's progress to be well monitored and aids staff in their care of each child. The children's understanding of other cultures and the world we live in

is well promoted through the use of play resources such as books, musical instruments, dolls, and outings to local attractions.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend. They are able to feel relaxed and comfortable in a well-planned environment. Their play opportunities are enhanced by the good organisation of space, allowing them the opportunity to make good use of each of the play areas available. For example, they use the sensory room, swimming pool, soft play area and splash room regularly. Children's welfare, care and safety are well promoted through the practical implementation of risk assessments, policies and clearly worded procedures. However, children's confidentiality could be compromised because personal details are accessible in the main entrance.

Children benefit from an efficiently organised time table. All sessions are well planned and children are given sufficient time to enable them to complete their activities and tasks. Children's safety is further promoted through a thorough staff recruitment procedure which ensures that all staff are suitable and have appropriate skills and knowledge. Good staff deployment and use of the key worker system ensures that children are cared for by a dedicated work force who know them well and can provide highly skilled support and motivation.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable. This is the group's first inspection.

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 good. 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 that all children's details are kept confidential, such as incident and accident report books and transport details
- ensure that children cannot access hazardous substances in low cupboards or shelves.

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