



Playspace

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY317800
Inspection date	29 September 2006
Inspector	Josephine Geoghegan
Setting Address	1 Coral Street, London, SE1 7BE
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	Blackfriars Settlement
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?

Playspace Out of School Club is run by the Blackfriars Settlement organisation and has been registered since 2006. They provide an open access provision after school and during school holidays. The club operates from the Playspace building and adjoining adventure playground in the Waterloo area, on the borders of Southwark and Lambeth. A maximum of 20 children may attend at any one time.

Playspace operates after school during term time, Monday to Friday from 15.30 to 18.30 and all day during various school holidays. There are currently 82 children on roll who attend the holiday play scheme and 29 children on roll who attend after school during term time. In addition, the setting offers open access care to children over eight years. Children attend for a variety of sessions. No children presently attend who have identified special needs. The setting presently supports many children who speak dual languages.

The setting employs four staff, including the manager, who work directly with the children each day, all of whom hold appropriate qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have extensive opportunities to engage in physical play. They benefit from free-flow play, enabling them to use the vast on site adventure playground with a range of interesting fixed climbing and play equipment. Children are able to develop a range of physical skills as they participate in group team games and while on outings in the school holidays. For example, swimming, football and go carting enable children to develop their physical control, coordination and spatial awareness.

Children's good health is promoted well as the setting is very clean and well maintained. First aid boxes are well stocked, staff hold current first aid qualifications and methods to record any accidents are in place, helping to safeguard children's well being. However, parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice is not recorded.

Details of children's individual dietary needs are recorded. The setting does not provide meals, but offers 'tuck' of drinks and snacks for children to buy. Children have constant access to drinking water. The setting is taking steps to improve the quality of the snacks offered. For example, children are able to shop, cook and sell cakes and snacks they have made at cost price; they also have planned adult led 'healthy days' where children participate in activities and discuss healthy eating and lifestyles.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright and well organised environment and benefit from lots of natural light. The art room, kitchen, bathrooms and outside play area all lead directly from the main hall, enabling children to move freely, choosing areas of play and developing their independence. The hall is decorated with displays of children's art work and photos of children participating in activities, promoting positive images and helping to develop children's self esteem.

Children have access to a wide variety of age appropriate resources, such as art and craft materials, books, board games, construction toys and computers. They also use indoor sports equipment such as bar football, table tennis and pool tables. The outside play area includes an adventure play ground with a wide range of interesting play equipment and an adjoining enclosed sports court.

Good systems are in place to ensure the outside play area is safe, such as constant staff supervision, regular safety checks completed by staff and the provision of a soft safety surface under the play equipment. Children's safety is promoted within the setting as staff are vigilant

and remind children of safety procedures to be followed. For example, to be aware of others while using the pool cue and outside play equipment, minimising the risk of accidents.

Appropriate systems are in place to help safeguard children. For example, methods to record any incidents and the local safeguarding children's procedures are easily accessible to staff, enabling any concerns to be dealt with effectively.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a good range of interesting activities and outings after school and during school holidays, including well planned outings to the coast and bowling. Children have good opportunities to learn about technology as they use laptops within the setting and have use of a computer suite. They have constant opportunities to engage in physical play and join in organised team games such as football.

Children enjoy being creative and are provided with a wide range of art and craft materials, enabling them to explore and develop free creative expression. For example while using clay, plaster, paint and collage materials. Children play cooperatively as they draw together, creating a frieze with representational drawings of animals, people and trees. Children have access to books within the setting and also have opportunities to obtain books through visits to the library and the bus that visits the setting.

Children have good opportunities to develop their maths skills while using a range of board games, developing their counting and problem solving skills. They are able to design and construct as they use construction toys and participate in adult led activities such as the '3D workshop'.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Good systems are in place to ensure children's individual needs are known to staff. For example, parents are requested to share details of their child's medical, dietary or special needs on the registration form. Although no children attend at present who have identified special needs, systems are in place to ensure inclusive care can be provided. Children are able to gain knowledge of cultures and beliefs as they participate in activities relating to festivals, dancing, African drumming, birthday parties and cooking foods that reflect a variety of cultures. Children are able to express their views; nominated children attend regular forum meetings with staff where they discuss any issues and ideas for activities.

Children are encouraged to treat each other with equal concern and play cooperatively, taking turns with support and encouragement by staff. Good emphasis is placed on children being able to play freely without bullying. Children show a good sense of belonging as they greet and say goodbye to each other and staff. Children of all ages mix together; they are well behaved and purposefully engaged in activities, creating a relaxed family atmosphere. Parents are welcomed into the setting and are provided with information about the setting, activities and

outings. Parents discuss how their children are happy and have become more confident since they began at the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The setting promotes good practice regarding the use of documents. For example, registration forms are completed, providing details of the children, their individual needs and their parents. Written parental consent is gained to take photos and for offsite outings. Good procedures are in place to identify children under eight and records are kept of children's times of arrival and departure. However, consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice is not recorded and some older style forms used do not show the names of parents and emergency contact numbers.

Children are cared for by qualified and experienced staff who work cooperatively, ensuring children are well supervised, promoting safety. Good systems are in place to ensure staff and volunteers are suitable to work with children, such as thorough recruitment and vetting procedures. Staff continue to extend their knowledge of playwork by attending relevant courses, such as safeguarding children and working with children with special needs.

Children are able to move freely around the well organised environment. They have access to a variety of interesting activities and a good range of resources that are easily accessible, enabling them to make choices and develop their independence.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- continue to develop the use of documentation, to ensure records include details of parents, emergency contact numbers and written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk