



Portswood Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY312130
Inspection date	09 August 2006
Inspector	Alison Large
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Registered person	Southampton Childrens Play Association
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?

Portswood Playscheme is one of the Southampton Children's Play Association open access play schemes. It opened in 2005 and operates from a scout hut in the Portswood area of Southampton. A maximum of 32 children may attend the scheme at any one time. The play scheme opens from 10:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 15:00 Monday to Friday, for three weeks in the school summer holidays. The children have access to an enclosed outside play area.

The staff are able to support children with special needs as well as those who speak English as an additional language. A team of staff work with the children and have all

attended the relevant training for running a play scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health within the scheme is supported well by staff who have an understanding of health and hygiene procedures. Children are independent in their own personal care and have free access to the toilets and hand washing facilities. Children are able to access drinking water throughout the session and are reminded of the importance of taking regular drinks to maintain their health. Staff deal well with any health issues and have all the relevant information to ensure accidents and illness are dealt with appropriately. Children are able to enjoy outside play on a daily basis and can take part in a good range of physical games and activities including ball games, team games and hoops. This enables the children to run and play, which contributes to their good health and physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are confident in the well organised environment. They have access to a large room and an outside play area. Children have access to a wide range of resources and toys, which are safe and in good condition. The scheme is an open access play scheme, so children have the freedom to come and go as they please, although staff ensure children's safety at all times. The red shirts worn by staff, with the scheme's logo on, ensure staff are easily identifiable. Staff have a good awareness of safety issues, they carry out daily risk assessments of the play areas and a record of visitors to the scheme is kept which helps ensure the children are protected. The staff have a clear understanding of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child and have attended training in child protection procedures, ensuring children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the scheme, they arrive happily and are eager to participate. Children are interested in the activities available, they enjoy their play and are able to initiate and lead their own activities. Children are able to relax or be active according to their needs and interests, they can take part in games or outside play, while others select quieter activities such as art and craft and board games. Staff plan various activities to interest the children, for example, a talent show gives the children opportunities to share ideas and express themselves. Staff interact well with the children, they join in their games and are interested in what they have to say, which ensures the children are well supported. Children are enthusiastic and self assured in the scheme, there is a good range of resources which are used well to interest the

children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and play a full part in the scheme because staff value and appreciate their individuality. Children with special needs are welcomed and are able to integrate into the scheme. Children are able to access a variety of multi-cultural resources and toys, including dressing up, which helps them develop an understanding of the wider world. Behaviour is good, children know what is expected of them, because they help make and discuss the scheme's rules at the beginning of the week, which enables the children to take responsibility for their own behaviour. Relationships with the parents are friendly, they are made welcome when dropping off and collecting their children. The notice board has clear information for parents and a copy of all the scheme's policies and procedures are available. However, the scheme have not yet put a complaints record in place that is available for parents to see, which affects the good sharing of information with the parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children are able to move around freely and easily in the well organised environment. The registered person uses effective recruitment procedures and ensures all staff are vetted and have attended the Southampton Children's Play Association training courses. The staff work well together as a team and together they work to promote children's safety and enjoyment. Most documentation is in place and stored confidentially, however, the correct certificate was not displayed during the scheme, which affects the information for parents on the numbers of children able to attend the scheme.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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.

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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 and any action taken which is made available to parents
- ensure the correct certificate of registration is displayed at all times

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