



Playhouse Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY314623
Inspection date	13 July 2006
Inspector	Catherine Greenwood
Setting Address	The Romany Scouts Hut, 22A Lyford Road, London, SW18 3LG
Telephone number	07977 042 464
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Registered person	Playhouse Playgroup
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Sessional 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?

Playhouse Playgroup opened in 1978 and was re-registered in 2005. It is run by a committee and operates from one large room within a scout hut. There is an adjacent kitchen and children and staff toilets. The premises is situated within a large field in a residential area close to Wandsworth Common. All children share access to a large outdoor play area. A maximum of 20 children may attend the setting at any one time. There are currently 78 children aged 18 months to under five years on roll. The playgroup is open Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 12:00, term time only. Children come from a local catchment area.

The playgroup employs two members of staff, both of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. In addition there is a daily parent rota. The nursery receives regular support from the committee and the Wandsworth Primary Play Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being able to use a very large adjacent outside play area which is an inviting and stimulating environment. They make good progress in their physical development as they run freely and use the wheeled toys and the large fixed climbing apparatus. Older children are confident with climbing and sliding independently and there is an additional slide available which is suitable for younger children. In addition, children can choose to take part in music and movement sessions which are facilitated by outside teachers. As a result, children develop a positive attitude towards physical exercise. Children develop good personal independence as they help to hand round the biscuits and drinks at snack time. However, drinking water is not made easily accessible throughout the session and snacks are not healthy and nutritious. Information is displayed about children's individual dietary needs so that they are not at risk when taking part in activities such as cooking. There are no hygiene procedures in place for nappy changing, which means that younger children are at risk of cross-infection. One member of staff holds a current first aid certificate, which means that children receive appropriate treatment in the event of an accident.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff understand and comply with health and safety requirements, for example, they ensure that children cannot access the kitchen at any time. There are security systems in place which include notices reminding parents and visitors to lock the main gate on arrival and departure. Staff are vigilant about ensuring the gate is locked at all times when children are present, which means they cannot leave the premises unsupervised. Staff on rota duty, and children who attend the playgroup independently without their parents wear name tags. As a result these children are kept safe and supervised at all times because staff and parents who work as volunteers can quickly identify which children they are responsible for. However, the outside play area is a safety hazard due to broken fencing. This means that there is a danger that children are at risk if parents and staff do not see them going into areas which are unsafe, such as the bushes where they cannot be seen and parts of the outside play area which are used by other groups. Children have access to a very good range of safe play equipment appropriate to their age and stage of development, which is well organised to give them maximum independence. For example, activities are set up inside and outside the Scout Hut. Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff have a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures. However, some staff do not have a sound understanding of the procedures for recording and reporting concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and relaxed in the welcoming environment. They play an active part in the setting and enjoy making independent choices about their activities. Children are motivated and interested in a good range of indoor and outdoor activities, which provide sufficient challenge and are appropriate to their age and stage of development. They learn lots of skills and enjoy a wide range of creative activities such as making angel delight during cooking activities. Although children are provided with a good range of experiences, staff do not use the birth to three matters guidance to enhance children's learning and development. Staff plan activities which capture the children's interest and help them to learn, such as themes on seasons and the weather, colours and shapes, things that move, living things and the world around us. Children are enthusiastic and confident to try new experiences because the staff show interest in what the children say, actively join them in their play and assist them with achieving their aims for activities. Children develop good relationships with each other and play happily together, for example when using the dressing up clothes to play imaginatively. The librarian visits the playgroup each week to read to the children and they enjoy organised musical instrument sessions organised by the staff, where they play and sing along to songs such as 'Old MacDonald had a farm'. Children are familiar with the structure of the sessions and develop good personal independence and self confidence within their play due to the choices and encouragement they are given.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

New children settle well because parents are welcomed into the playgroup and some stay with their children during every session. There is an organised parent rota which identifies parents who work at the setting each day on a voluntary basis. Staff and parents share the care of the children and respond quickly to their individual needs. Children form very good friendships with each other and play together harmoniously. They are very friendly, polite and well behaved, because staff provide good role models and encourage children to share and take turns when using the play equipment. However, due to the size of the premises some minor incidents of behaviour are not always observed. Parents receive good information about the setting and activities through the introduction of newsletters and displays on the parents notice board. They are welcomed into the setting and take an active role in organising events such as barbecue's, sponsored toddles and cake sales. Children benefit from their parents' involvement, which enables the playgroup to go on outings to places of interest such as farms. All children are warmly welcomed and play a full part in the playgroup, because the staff value and respect their individuality. Parent questionnaires enable the provider to obtain feedback from parents and carers about how well the playgroup is meeting children's individual needs. The children have good opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them through a range of planned activities and resources that reflect positive images. There are effective systems in place to support children who have special

educational needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There is a very good range of easily accessible resources and activities that are suitable for the age and stage of development of the children. Staff plan carefully and set up the inside and outside areas in an attractive way. The environment is very well organised, so that children can choose to play inside or outside throughout the session. As a result children show very good self confidence and move around the large space freely and independently. The setting receives good support from parents who volunteer to help at the setting on a rota basis. This means that although there are only two members of staff, the children benefit from having additional adults to join in their play and meet their individual needs. The nominated person for the committee takes a very active role in helping the setting to review staff practice and has introduced an appraisal system to assess practical care issues, the physical environment, activity planning and future training needs. As a result, children benefit from the changes that are introduced and the commitment from staff to improve the quality of care. All documentation is very well organised and all policies and procedures are in place. However, there is no staff register, the complaints procedure has not been updated and there is no system in place to keep a record of complaints. 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 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.

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.
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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):

- improve hygiene practice when changing children's nappies to prevent cross infection, provide more healthy snacks and make drinking water easily accessible to children at all times.
- provide secure boundaries in the garden so that children are not able to access areas that are hazardous and unsafe and ensure all staff have a sound understanding of the procedures for recording and reporting child protection concerns.
- ensure all staff obtain a secure knowledge and understanding of birth to three matters guidance so that children's learning and development can be fully extended and they can reach their full potential.
- keep a daily register of staff attendance, devise a system to record complaints and update the complaints procedure.

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