



Limes Community and Childrens Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY288984
Inspection date	11 August 2006
Inspector	Jane Davenport
Setting Address	Williams Morris Hall, 6 Somers Road, London, E17 6RX
Telephone number	85098985
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Registered person	Limes Community and Children's Centre
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care, Crèche

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?

Limes Community and Children's Centre was registered in 2004 and is run by the centre's board of trustees. It operates from a refurbished building and is situated in Walthamstow in the London borough of Waltham Forest.

A maximum of 30 children between the ages of four and eight years may attend the provision at any one time. Care is also provided for children over eight years. The group currently operates drop in facilities and also a holiday play scheme which operates each weekday from 10:00 to 15:30 at set periods during school holidays. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 16 children aged from four years to under eight years on roll. The group supports several children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

The provision employs nine care staff, including the manager, over half of whom hold appropriate childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean environment, where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene. Effective daily routines and explanations from staff teach children how to avoid passing on germs to others and they understand why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating.

Staff members have a good knowledge of first aid procedures and several hold a current first aid certificate. This means that they can give appropriate care if there is an accident. Accident and medication records are kept appropriately and parents give prior written consent to administer medication, which ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. The accident record does not currently make it clear where parents sign to acknowledge entries.

Fresh drinking water is available at all times and children confidently help themselves. This encourages them to think about their personal needs. During warm weather they receive reminders from staff to drink lots of water in order to prevent dehydration. Staff gather all relevant information regarding diet and medical history, which ensures children's dietary and medical needs are met. Children enjoy fresh fruit at the snack table, which encourages them to develop healthy eating practices. There are effective storage facilities for the food provided by parents and children are encouraged to discuss which healthy items they have brought in their packed lunches.

Children have many excellent opportunities to become physically active, regularly using the extensive outdoor play area for imaginative play and physical challenges and also participating in arranged outings. They enthusiastically join in with the range of games and activities provided by the highly motivated staff team.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy the excellent facilities in the setting, where the space is used to excellent effect, providing them with a wide variety of play experiences. Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff are extremely vigilant and use thorough risk assessments to reduce potential hazards. Staff have an excellent understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits, and how to involve children effectively in organising their environment. This allows

children to learn some sense of danger and knowledge about how to protect themselves from harm.

Children use high quality equipment appropriate to their age, ability and stage of development. Those with learning difficulties or disabilities are safe and fully included because of the sensitive adult support and well-planned adaptations to resources and activities. Regular communication with parents contributes to children's safety.

Staff have a clear understanding of safety issues and carry out effective daily checks on the building, outdoor area and equipment. Children are safeguarded effectively in emergencies and practise emergency evacuation procedures regularly. Staff are vigilant at recording visitors, the premises are secure and there are excellent systems in place to prevent children from being collected by unauthorised people.

Children learn about related potential dangers before undertaking any outing with staff. They discuss road safety and "stranger danger" in detail, with staff asking open ended questions to encourage the children to think about it for themselves. Children enjoy taking part in a discussion with two visiting community police officers, which is an excellent way to reinforce the important message about keeping themselves safe.

Children are very well protected by staff who have a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures and give top priority to children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children arrive happy and eager to participate. They enjoy their day and gain confidence through consistent routines and close relationships with the friendly, caring staff. High quality adult-child interactions and excellent staffing ratios are extremely supportive of communication skills. Children speak confidently and express their ideas clearly. They listen to each other and work co-operatively together. The staff are patient, calm and attentive, providing a wealth of fun experiences for the children.

Children learn to make sense of the world as they join in a diverse range of exploratory and sensory experiences, for example, as they participate in a well-planned recycling scheme, take part in sessions in the excellent sensory room with its water bed, soft play, music and light tubes or as they use the computer facilities in the I T suite.

Children have excellent opportunities to express themselves creatively, as they freely choose from a wide range of materials, colours and textures. Activities are skilfully adapted to include children of all ages and abilities and staff constantly evaluate and seek to improve what is on offer to the children.

Children enjoy the excellent facilities provided in the outdoor adventure playground. They enthusiastically join in with basketball practice, run, jump, climb and perform somersaults on the ropes. A series of planned outings to local parks, the farm and library and visits from the fire brigade, the street wardens and community police

officers greatly enhance their learning opportunities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed and play a full part in the play scheme because staff value and respect their individuality and the family context for each child. Children and parents sing The Limes song as they arrive each day, which is an excellent way of fostering a sense of belonging and being very much a part of the group. Children are given a voice as they are consulted about what they would like to see included in the timetable and they complete evaluative questionnaires in Widgeo format at the end of the scheme.

Staff have a very positive attitude towards diversity and are excellent role models, helping children learn the importance of showing respect for all. The Limes actively promotes inclusion within the local community and beyond. Staff encourage all children to participate in the activities provided, which ensures children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential. They become aware of their own and other cultures through a range of resources and planned activities.

There are excellent systems in place to support children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Close liaison exists with parents and outside agencies to ensure children's needs are well planned for and met. Staff are secure in their understanding of the code of practice; all staff have attended disability awareness training and provide activities that are accessible to all children, facilitating inclusion through thinking creatively and positively.

Children generally behave very well. Some children present with challenging behaviour as part of their specific needs and staff are extremely supportive of these children. They have high expectations and set consistent boundaries for the children, which helps them learn to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own behaviour. Staff increase children's understanding of right and wrong; they respond to gentle reminders to care for their environment, the play resources and one another. The children's behaviour is positively reinforced with praise and affirmation.

An excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being in the play scheme. Staff actively seek parents' views about their children's needs and interests before the child starts at the setting, and on a regular basis throughout their time there. Parents receive good information about the scheme's aims and objectives and activities provided.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Recruitment and induction procedures at the setting are very effective. Places at the holiday scheme are advertised in advance and there is a cut off date for applications so that staff are aware of which children will be attending and are able to plan with

their specific needs in mind.

All staff are fully aware of the scheme's policies and procedures and what is expected of them and they meet on a daily basis to evaluate their practice. There is an effective key worker system in place, tasks are delegated effectively and staff's strengths utilised well. All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and is regularly reviewed and updated.

Children enjoy a rich variety of play experiences in a well-organised environment, where space and resources are utilised very effectively. Staff work very well as a team and staffing ratios are excellent. Children's development is enhanced by the on-going commitment of staff to furthering their knowledge of good practice through training.

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 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):

- make clear where parents' signatures are recorded in the accident book
- continue to develop and improve upon current good practice.

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