



Sutton Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	17 August 2006
Inspector	Sue Boylan
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Registered person	London Borough of Sutton Play Service
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Sutton Out of School Club opened in 1994 and operates from a large hall within the Robin Hood Youth Centre in the London Borough of Sutton. A maximum of 30 children aged five to eight years may attend the club at any one time. It does also, accept children up to the age of 14 years. The Out of School Club is one of a number of projects run by the Sutton Play Service.

The provision runs an after school club during term time that is open from 15:15 until 18:00. During holiday times the play scheme is open from 09:00 until 18:00. There is

a small outside area.

The numbers of children on roll vary on a daily basis. The club support children who have learning difficulties and who speak English as an additional language.

The Out of School Club employs between six and ten staff, depending on how many children are attending. Of these, one staff holds an appropriate early years qualification and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children enjoy daily opportunities for physical exercise that contributes to their general good health. They love playing in the gym where they take part in basket ball, skipping and team games. They have the freedom to play indoors or outside where they access a variety of activities.

Children understand the importance of taking regular drinks, they ask a member of staff or go and help themselves to water from the tap. Children benefit from snacks which includes fruit daily, this helps them to develop healthy eating practices. Parents provide a packed lunch for children who attend the holiday play scheme. If any food, such as yogurt needs to be stored in the fridge, children will ask.

The environment is clean and well maintained. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after going to the toilet. However, they are usually so much in a hurry they forget to use soap and just run their hands quickly under the tap. They then, dry themselves using a roller towel, which does not move around freely and is dirty. Staff are aware of the hygiene procedure to follow when preparing food, however, they are unable to wash their hands because of the lack of soap and towels in the kitchen. Cloths used for washing up and drying dishes are not clean. This does not help prevent cross contamination.

A sufficient number of staff are qualified in first aid, this ensures children will be treated promptly in the event of an accident or minor injury. A record of accidents is maintained and parents are usually given a letter if their child sustains a head injury, however, parents are not signing to confirm they are aware the accident has occurred. This means children's health is not protected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a secure environment where they can move around freely and safely. Suitable steps are taken regarding the security of the building. This means children cannot leave the premises unsupervised and unwanted visitors are unable to enter the building without staff knowledge. Children are supervised effectively both inside and outside the setting. There is good risk assessment in place which is reviewed on

a regular basis. This means children's safety is protected.

The supply of toys and equipment is in good condition and suitable for the ages of children attending. Fire safety precautions are appropriate, there is a written emergency evacuation plan displayed and staff talk to children about evacuating the building. However, if attending the holiday play scheme children do not get sufficient opportunity to familiarise themselves with the procedure. Children's welfare is protected because staff have a good knowledge of child protection. They know who to contact if they have concerns a child is being abused or neglected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and relaxed. They readily approach staff which indicates trusting relationships. Children relate well to staff and each other and look forward to spending time with friends. Children love the opportunity to be involved with creative activities, for instance, mixing up "plaster of paris" to make letters of the alphabet. They watch in fascination as the consistency of the mixture changes so it is ready to pour into the moulds. Children enjoy initiating their own play, such as, making a "bank" so they are able to get some money, in order to go and buy a holiday from the "travel agent". Children involve themselves in all activities which are usually linked into a theme, for example, "messy week". They cooperate in board games and like to have a game of pool or table tennis. Children independently go to the quiet corner to look at books or ask a member of staff to read a favourite story.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

There is good partnership with parents which contributes to children's well-being and confidence. The manager or deputy are available at the end of the day to exchange any relevant information with parents about their child. This promotes consistency in care.

Children are well behaved and benefit from staff who are calm in their approach. Children are aware of the boundaries and have good opportunities to contribute to the club rules. When a member of staff raises their hand children know they have to be quiet and listen to an instruction, such as, "tidy up it is time for snack". There are appropriate strategies used to encourage positive behaviour, for instance, parents and children, if old enough are asked to read the "rules" form and sign to say they agree with the consequences, for instance, "time out".

All children are included in the day to day routine. Children with learning difficulties integrate well into the group and staff work hard to ensure their individual needs are met. Children have good opportunities to experience the local community with regular trips, usually on public transport to other play centres and different parks. Staff plan a good range of activities that contribute to children's understanding of the world around them, such as celebrating Diwali and Chinese New Year.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children benefit from staff who have a positive attitude and care about children's well-being, for example, introducing themselves to a new child and reinforcing what to do if they are unsure about the day, or need any help. There are clear recruitment procedures, staff are vetted before commencing employment and have induction training which includes a session on managing the children's behaviour. However, not enough is done to ensure children are cared for by a sufficient number of suitably qualified staff.

The setting and routine is organised well so children have good opportunities to participate in all types of play. Older children like to help, for instance, serving out snack and organising football coaching. This contributes towards positive self-esteem and confidence. However, children who attend the play scheme all day are not allocated to a key worker who is mainly responsible for their well-being on a day to day basis.

Staff are aware of the policies and procedures to guide them in their daily practice. Although, the system to consistently maintain an accurate register of staff attendance is not in place and accident records are not confidential. Overall the setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to improve security regarding other users coming into the centre; supervision of children if staff have to go and answer the door and ensure children are offered meals in smaller groups. All visitors to the centre have to ring a bell and a member of the out of school club will always answer the door taking into consideration the supervision of the children. They are able to see the person through the window so other people coming in will not put the children at risk. Meal times are organised so children sometimes sit with their own age group and always at small tables so numbers are restricted.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

The setting 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve.
The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare
- ensure the record of accidents is signed by parents and information recorded remains confidential
- improve the system to maintain an accurate daily record of staff's hours of attendance
- ensure good hygiene practices are in place regarding hand washing.

These actions are set out in a **notice of action to improve** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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