



Redbridge Jewish Youth & Community Care

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	128416
Inspection date	16 August 2006
Inspector	Theresa May
Setting Address	Sinclair House, Woodford Bridge Road, Ilford, Essex, IG4 5LN
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Registered person	Jewish Care
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Sinclair House is a multi-use community centre, run by Jewish Care. It is situated in Ilford, in the London Borough of Redbridge. Sinclair House provides activities for children and young people aged four to 18 years, which include holiday play schemes and after school clubs for children aged four to eight years. It operates from group activity rooms, one gym and one art room on the ground floor, and upstairs there is a dining room and hall. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

The maximum number of children from within this age range in attendance is 50 in

the after school clubs, and 70 in the holiday play schemes.

The play schemes operate during summer holidays, as well as October, February and May half-terms, from 10:00 to 16:30 from Mondays to Thursdays. Children can arrive from 8:30 and stay until 18:00. On Fridays the play schemes finish earlier, at 15:00. The after school clubs operate during term time on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 15:45 to 18:00 for children in reception class and Year One and Two at school, and Mondays and Wednesdays from 17:30 to 20:15 for children in Years Three to Six.

There are currently 21 children aged from four to under eight years on roll. The club currently supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club employs six members of staff. Two of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. There are care staff, specialist activity staff and volunteers. Managers are supernumerary. Jewish care runs its own play leadership courses.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene through daily routines. They are reminded by the staff to wash their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet. Staff are good role models as they wipe down the tables before children eat their snack and place table cloths on the tables before lunch.

Several staff are trained in first aid and there is a fully equipped first aid box sited in the office. All accidents are recorded and consent to seek emergency advice or treatment has been obtained from parents. This means that staff can give appropriate care if there is an emergency. Accident and medication records are kept appropriately and parents give prior written consent to administer medication, which ensures continuity of care between home and the play scheme.

Fresh drinking water is available at all times from water barrels which children can confidently help themselves. Staff encourage the children to drink water which helps children to think about their personal needs. Staff gather all relevant information regarding diet and medical history, which ensures children's dietary and medical needs are met. Children enjoy nutritious snacks and meals with healthy options such as tuna or egg on white or brown bread with salad and fresh fruit, which encourages them to develop healthy eating practices.

Children queue at the food bar and seat themselves down to eat at the tables for snacks or lunch. There can be a long wait between eating and the next activity where some children can become restless resulting in unwanted behaviour. Not all the staff sit with the children which limits opportunities for social interaction and supervision.

Good information is provided for parents about healthy options and suggestions on

what to include in their child's packed lunch when on trips out.

Children have daily opportunities to become physically active, regularly using the gym and outdoor play area for physical exercise which contributes to their health and development of physical skills as they run jump and play ball and games of statues.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a warm and welcoming environment where their art work is displayed. There is ample space for the children to move around in comfort and ease in the dining hall, two rooms downstairs, art room, gym and outside play area which is organised for their safety.

Furniture and equipment provided in the art room and gym are adequate and appropriate for their purpose. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards. However, there is only a small selection of books, games, dressing up and musical instruments in the resource cupboard which is not accessible for the children unless pre-selected by the staff. Children are involved in their own safety and reminded to tidy up after an activity.

Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff regularly use risk assessments to reduce potential hazards. Staff have a clear understanding of safety issues and carry out daily checks on the building, outdoor area and equipment. Children and staff practice the emergency procedures during the play scheme. This helps children to become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency. Staff are vigilant at recording visitors and there are good systems in place ensuring the premises are secure from any unwanted visitors.

Children learn about related potential dangers before undertaking any outings with staff. Children are identified by wrist bands and staff are recognisable by wearing coloured tee shirts. A meeting point is allocated and patrolled so if children get lost they know where they can go to find help.

Children are protected by effective procedures to ensure that staff and volunteers are vetted. Staff are aware of child protection policies and would pass on any concerns to the manager and co-ordinator. Staff receive clear information at their induction which promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children appear happy and settled. They listen eagerly to the days arrangements and answer questions confidently. Children meet in their key groups and have formed friendly relationships with one another. They generally play well together and chat; they enjoy each others company and share equipment with each another. Trusting relationships are formed between staff and children due to the staff encouragement of them and asking questions about what they are making and giving them support

when needed.

Children's creative development is encouraged through making three dimensional pictures of the Sahara desert while the other group make a collage of it. However, the activities are adult lead due to reaching the end product which limits children's opportunities to use their imagination and have as much choice as possible.

Children come together for physical activities and some join in with the game of statues, they run, jump and play team ball games. However, at times children do not listen to staffs instructions or requests for good behaviour which results in the game being abandoned. If children decide not to participate they sit on the side lines until the activity is finished. There is no alternative activity or free play offered from the small selection of toys available in the resource cupboard.

A series of planned outings to places of interest such as the butterfly farm, indoor adventure play ground, Colchester Zoo and Legoland enhance children's learning opportunities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are made welcome and valued; they are treated as individuals and with equal concern. Children are developing a sense of the wider community by the planned activity 'around the world' that introduces them to other cultures. However, there are few resources which reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability.

Children with learning difficulties/disabilities are welcome. Information is obtained from the parents to ensure continuity of care and a member of staff or volunteer provides support to promote their welfare and development.

Children are generally well behaved and generally play harmoniously with one another. Children learn positive behaviour as staff give them praise and encouragement and use a sticker reward system for more time on the computers. However, staff are not always consistent in their approach to behaviour management and do not always support one another in applying the rules. Therefore children's behaviour deteriorates at certain parts of the day such as after snack time, lunch time and when in the gym. These are at times when groups of children are large and noisy, have long waiting periods for the next activity or are opting out of an activity and do not have access to toys or equipment that interest them.

Children's individual needs are met as information is obtained from parents to ensure continuity of care for them while at the club. Parents receive information about the club through a brochure and weekly newsletter. Parents' opinions and views are obtained through informal conversations and a questionnaire at the end of the play scheme. Parents are kept informed of their children's general wellbeing by the manager and co-ordinator on collection.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

There are recruitment procedures in place. The manager and co-ordinator have a level three early years qualifications and the rest of the staff/volunteers have attended their in-house induction training which ensures they know what is expected of them, so they can contribute to the safety and welfare of children.

Children benefit from an organised environment where ratios are more than adequate over the minimum required, enabling them to feel secure. There is a key worker system which ensures appropriate support and care for children during the play scheme.

All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and is regularly reviewed and updated. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a number of actions and recommendations were made. The actions were regarding the qualifications of the manager and care staff. Since that time a new manager has been appointed who has a level three qualification in play work which is appropriate for the post, and during the play scheme over half the required staff to children's ratios has a child care qualification. This ensures the manager and staff have sufficient knowledge of child care practices to meet the children's needs effectively.

The recommendations were that the club were asked to improve children's hand washing and that the handling of food complies with Environment health requirements. Children now have a regular routine of washing their hands before eating and staff preparing the food have the basic food and hygiene certificate which both ensure children's health and hygiene.

The club were asked to improve the fire safety. Children and staff practice the emergency evacuation procedure which benefits children in knowing what to do in the event of an emergency.

They were also asked to ensure that all staff and regular volunteers are vetted. There are effective systems in place within the club to ensure that all staff and volunteers are vetted before being left with children which ensures the children's safety and welfare.

Limited progress has been made to the recommendations regarding the range of activities, play opportunities, sufficient resources and resources which promote equality of opportunity which will be addressed in new recommendations.

Complaints since the last inspection

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

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.

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):

- provide sufficient toys and resources which are appropriate to the ages and interests of the children attending which they can access independently
- develop the planning to provide a balance of activities between children initiating them freely and adult led activities
- provide resources which reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability
- ensure staff are consistent in their approach to behaviour management and support one another

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