



14th Scout Hut Holiday Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	135332
Inspection date	10 August 2006
Inspector	Julia Louise Crowley
Setting Address	14th Scout Hut, Green Road, New Southgate, London, N14 4AT
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Registered person	London Borough of Enfield
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?

14th Scout Hut Holiday Play scheme is run by the London Borough of Enfield's Play Development Team. It opened in 1994 and operates from a large scout hall with toilet and kitchen facilities. It is situated on a large residential area between Southgate and Oakwood. A maximum of 32 children may attend the play scheme at any one time. The play scheme is open each weekday from 09.00 to 17.00 during the summer holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 51 children, aged from four to 11 years, on roll. Children come from a wide area. The play scheme currently supports children with special educational needs.

The play scheme employs five staff. Five of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have a broad range of opportunities to engage in daily physical activities, recognise the benefits of participating in regular exercise and know that it contributes to ensuring a healthy lifestyle. The activities include, for example, rounders, volley ball, parachute, dance and football, as well as opportunities to use the whole of the indoor space for games, should it rain. Children discuss why they must wear their sunscreen in the hot weather and enthusiastically prepare to play outdoors.

Practitioners implement effective hygiene procedures, such as monitoring and maintaining the bathroom for cleanliness and preparing tables for meals, minimising risk of infection. Children learn about health and hygiene and how to look after themselves through personal routines, including hand washing before snack and after toileting. They automatically know that they wash their hands before snacks, and that it prevents the spread of infection.

Most staff have up-to-date first aid qualification, and clear policies and procedures are in place to enable sick or injured children to be cared for effectively. Staff maintain accurate records and work closely with parents, to ensure that they have all the information they need to meet children's individual needs.

Children develop a good understanding of healthy eating as they discuss healthy options of different fruits at the lunch table. However, the provision does not offer information regarding the appropriate content of the packed lunch for parents, in order to promote healthy eating. Practitioners are effective in supporting children to develop their independence, for example by learning to take responsibility for their own lunchbox and its content, and they are actively involved in setting tables. Children independently access water throughout the session.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children learn to keep themselves safe in a welcoming and stimulating setting, where they are able to freely move around the environment. Practitioners are vigilant about children's safety; they ensure this by the effective implementation of daily risk assessments and health and safety policies and procedures across the provision. Children talk about safe practice, for example they recognise they must not run to the toilets or leave the lunch table before they have finished. They talk about safety during a creative activity, recognising the need to be careful when using the scissors. Children discuss how the edges are sharp and talk about the dangers of cutting their fingers as they cut the paper.

Children are effectively protected because practitioners have a good knowledge of child protection issues, recognise their role and responsibilities and know how to implement play scheme and local child protection procedures. The recording of all staff, children and visitors to and from the play scheme, policies for the collection and non-collection of children and arrangements for recording injuries contribute to ensuring children are safeguarded from harm.

Children benefit from the generally organised environment and a good range of equipment and resources is available and suitable for the ages of children attending. Effective procedures are in place to ensure equipment is safe and well maintained. Children access their own resources independently across the provision, which helps to develop independence.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children build successful relationships with play workers and peers and develop through a sufficient range of activities and experiences offered to them. They show imagination as they represent their ideas through the role-play, for example preparing to take their toy animals to the vets, or stay in the hotel constructed in the home corner. Children enjoy a broad range of activities such as candle making, textile design and cookery activities. Children widen their experiences through visiting groups such as circus skills, drama groups and Drummers. Children learn new skills and widen their knowledge and understanding of the world.

Practitioners' warm interaction and good support helps build positive relationships, children confidently approach staff members and chat happily about what they are doing. Staff have a good knowledge of children's individual needs. Lots of support is offered, particularly for the new and younger children, which helps them feel secure. Staff plan and provide a wide range of interesting indoor and outdoor activities to help children learn and have fun.

Children play with a purpose; sufficient space, good resources and appropriate intervention by the play workers means that children are able to express themselves and grapple with new challenges, as they learn to play co-operatively together. For example, children negotiate turns to play on the pool table and praise and acknowledge each other's achievements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children show a warm attitude towards one another and appear confident and self assured. They are settled in the play scheme, because they are well supported by practitioners who are nurturing and responsive. Children play well together learning to share and take turns and negotiate this with confidence. They show genuine concern for one another. For example, one child wants to join the dinosaur table, the other children make a space for her and offer her a paint brush.

Children develop a secure sense of belonging and confidently take on responsibilities within the play scheme, such as helping to gather cups. Children are generally well behaved and show strong levels of confidence and self-esteem, as practitioners praise and value their achievements. All children and their families, including those with special needs, receive consistent support from practitioners, enabling them to develop and make their own individual contribution. Children gain a well developed respect for themselves and others as they learn about their local community and the wider world and value and celebrate their differences and similarities.

For example, children learn of the origins of different drums and their meanings for other cultures.

Parents receive information about topics and are encouraged to support their children in bringing in items from home, linked to the topic of the week.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Practitioners have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the play scheme and the deployment of staff is good, ensuring children are secure and mostly engaged in activities. They are supported through regular meetings during the time the play scheme is in operation. Prior to the play scheme beginning, specific training is accessed in preparation. They plan the curriculum together and discuss how activities went. This enables the children to have a varied range of activities that offer sufficient challenge and interest.

The provider ensures that staff's first aid training is kept current and that they attend a number of child care courses and workshops, to build on their knowledge and improve their practice. Children benefit from the appropriate vetting procedures and safely managed documentation, ensuring confidentiality of the children's details. The manager has compiled a comprehensive notice board of useful information to share with parents. It ensures parents are well informed about the play scheme and can support their child.

The organisation of space, particularly in the large hall, ensures that the room available is used effectively and gives children the best opportunity to access equipment and have space to play actively, as well as quietly. Practitioners work well as a team and children's positive experience is promoted through satisfactory leadership. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, all staff have completed Child protection training. Children are kept safe through the staff's increased knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. All documentation is now available to ensure parents are informed of the service; this supports continuity of care for the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. 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

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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):

- promote healthy eating options, in partnership with parents

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