

# Stephen Hawking School Trust

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	119627
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 August 2007
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<b>Registered person</b>	Stephen Hawking School Trust
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Stephen Hawking School Trust is an Out of School holiday play scheme run by Stephen Hawking Trust. It opened over seven years ago and operates from approximately seven classrooms, in the Stephen Hawking Primary School which is off Commercial Road in the London borough of Tower Hamlets. The provision is for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. A maximum of 32 children under the age of eight years may attend the provision at any one time. Stephen Hawking School Trust also provides care for children aged from eight to eleven. The provision is open each weekday from 09.00 to 15:30 in school holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently nine children aged from two to under eight years on roll. Most of the children attending are pupils of Stephen Hawking School. The provision employs approximately 10 members of staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's meals are nutritiously balanced and appropriately prepared to ensure every child sustains healthy growth and development. For example the daily menu enables children to choose from a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables. Fresh drinking water is readily available to keep children hydrated throughout the day. Daily menus also ensure children's religious and dietary requirements are accommodated. For example Halal meat is provided and some foods are liquidised. This ensures children are properly nourished according to their individual requirements. The setting has received a 'Gold Award' by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for providing children with a high standard of nutritiously balanced meals. Routine activities enable children to maintain their personal hygiene, for example washing hands before meal times. The staff also use appropriate resources for nappy changing, disposal of waste and keeping the children's play areas clean. The children benefit from being in a clean environment because it means they can make full use of the space and resources without the risk of cross infection. The children are challenged by the range of physical activities available to them. They enjoy opportunities to move their bodies to music and sounds which develops their strength, coordination and flexibility. The children also take trips to the park and the beach where they are able to enjoy the fresh air which helps to keep them refreshed and energised. The staff are suitably qualified in first aid and they have procedures for managing the administration of medication, emergency treatment and sick children. There are some shortcomings in the procedure relating to emergency treatment. This procedure does not ensure parents provide written consent prior to the event. The staff do know the children well, however, the procedures do not fully ensure children receive consistent care.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe because the group take appropriate action in most areas to reduce safety risks to children. For example the premises and resources are well maintained. This creates a welcoming environment for the children and enables them to utilise the space for a range of activities. Children explore the sensory equipment and enjoy group activities such as music and movement because resources are arranged well to provide easy access and sufficient space for wheelchairs. There are also practical security features in place which help to prevent children from leaving the premises unsupervised. These security features include an intercom system and secure locks on doors and windows. The children are closely monitored on arrival and departure and the staff keep an updated attendance register. This information is used well to ensure ratios are maintained and staff are suitably deployed to support children in their activities. The group also have clear procedures for recruiting and vetting staff. This helps to ensure children are cared for by suitable adults. Other procedures include recording accidents, managing fire evacuations and children's outings. These procedures promote children's safety when in and out of the premises. At present there are no procedures for conducting risk assessments; this slightly compromises children's safety. All staff have received training in how to implement procedures to protect children from abuse. This ensures children are appropriately safeguarded from potential harm.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

The children are presented with a range of stimulating activities which support and promote their development. For example children develop their concentration and a greater awareness of their environment when they explore the sensory and visual aids. Children listen and observe changes in colour, pattern, sound and texture when they watch the revolving glitter ball and see the light reflections on the screen. The children get first hand experience of their natural surroundings when they visit the sea-side. They learn about the different modes of travel when they use the London Underground and sail in a boat across the river. During the trip to the sea-side the children watch the waves in the sea and have fun in the sand. Displays show children have replicated their experience of the sea-side indoors with the use of natural materials such as sand, water, weeds and sea-shells. The staff provide children with practical resources to extend their learning, such as musical instruments to help children simulate the sounds of the sea. Children can enjoy other water activities, such as swimming in the hydrotherapy pool. This activity helps to strengthen children's bodies and improve their coordination and mobility. These activities also increase children's confidence and self esteem because they learn new skills. The staff are good role models for the children. They have sound knowledge of the Birth to three matters and implement this well to help children progress. Staff relate warmly to the children and motivate them to progress by praising the children's efforts. Most staff are trained to communicate with children in a variety of ways which helps children to express their needs and makes children feel secure in the setting.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

All children feel welcome and accepted because the staff demonstrate a commitment to providing equal opportunities for all. For example ensuring meals reflect children's dietary needs and activities promotes a positive image of diversity. A range of play materials, such as dolls, pictures, posters and books depicting people with varying abilities from around the world, helps children to value others and foster good relations. The staff have clear procedures for how children with learning difficulties and disabilities will be fully integrated in the setting. The staff work closely with parents to devise a care plan for all children, this helps to ensure children's individual needs are met. This includes ensuring children have access to appropriate specialised equipment that aids their development. The children are confident and behave well. They learn about good behaviour through positive reinforcement and good role modelling by the staff who are calm and friendly. The staff praise the children for their efforts; this makes the children feel secure in their environment. The partnership with parents contributes positively to the children's well-being. Information about children's care is shared through daily discussions. The staff also provide parents each day with a written record of children's routines which is displayed. In addition parents receive a contract of agreements detailing the type of care children will receive including ways parents can raise concerns. These arrangements help to ensure children receive consistent care and attention.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children have positive care and learning experiences because the well-established staff team show skill and commitment to their roles and responsibilities. There are detailed policies and procedures that are shared with parents, most of which are regularly reviewed to ensure

information is up to date. There are some procedures, namely those relating to emergency treatment for children and risk assessments, which have some shortcomings. The staff team are suitably qualified and experienced. They undertake a thorough recruitment and selection process which is implemented well to ensure children are cared for by suitable adults.

The space and range of resources and activities offered to the children are well managed and enable the children to self select and choose what they want to do. All documentation and records are maintained and ensure confidentiality. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

The group have improvements in their partnership with parents. There are clear procedures in place to guide parents who want to raise concerns and also to guide staff on how to manage complaints. This helps to ensure matters can be quickly resolved and children can continue to receive consistent care.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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):

- ensure procedures include obtaining consent from parents for emergency treatment
- develop and implement risk assessments to reduce potential hazards for children

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)