



Woodgate Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 227023

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Inspector Paula Hunt

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Registered person Woodgate Adventure Playground

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Woodgate Adventure Playground opened in 1982 as an open access facility, operating from an enclosed play space which includes an outdoor climbing and activity area, an indoor ball court, a games room, computer room and art room. It is situated on the rally bank in the Woodgate area of the city and draws children from the immediate area as well as Newfoundpool and beyond.

There are a maximum of 40 places available to children aged under eight years and there are currently 70 children aged under eight years on roll. Children are welcome to attend until the term after their 14th birthday. The project supports children who

have special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The project opens from 15.15 until 18.15 five days a week during school term time. It also opens from 11.00 until 13.30 and from 14.00 until 17.00 during most school holidays.

There are three full-time and three part-time project workers who work with the children all year round, they are all suitably qualified. Additional staff are recruited for the school holidays. The facility is a voluntary project, which receives some support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because staff follow suitable procedures to reduce the spread of infection. For example, the premises are cleaned daily and children who are unwell are not allowed to attend the session. Children follow simple hygiene practices as they wash their hands after using the bathroom. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise as they use large equipment to help develop their strength and co-ordination. They also go on trips to benefit from fresh air and exercise, socialise with other children and learn about the local community and the wider environment.

Staff record accidents and are trained in first aid which ensures they are able to respond quickly and effectively to minor accidents, emergencies or incidents. Suitable policies and procedures are in place, such as, the administering of medication, recording of any accidents and when a child is ill, that ensure children are safe and well cared for.

Children are provided with a tuck shop where they purchase snacks. These include crisps, chocolate biscuits and ice sticks; there are no healthy options. This prevents children learning about healthy eating and poses a risk to their general health. Children understand the importance of taking regular drinks and either help themselves from an outdoor water tap or purchase cup drinks when they are thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in premises which are maintained to a mostly satisfactory standard. Regular risk assessments are carried out to ensure the premises and equipment are safe. Staff carry out daily checks of the premises before children arrive however, there are several discarded items including an old freezer which pose a risk to children's safety. Children are learning to keep themselves safe due to their knowledge of behavioural expectations within the setting and through discussions with staff. For example, how to cross roads safely, stranger danger and regular fire drills. Children have access to a satisfactory range of toys and equipment which are

age appropriate and stored within easy reach.

Children are protected from abuse or neglect. Staff have satisfactory knowledge in this area and are aware of their responsibilities to the children in their care. They have knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedure to follow should they have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and enthusiastic about attending the scheme. They eagerly wait outside the gates, asking staff 'Is it time yet?' A stimulating environment and happy atmosphere, ensures that children have positive experiences and enjoy their leisure time. Children are very vocal about the setting, they confidently tell visitors what they like to do and why they like coming. They enjoy a wide range of exciting and interesting activities and they have particular favourites such as the pool table, trips out, arts and crafts. Staff allow children the space and freedom to make choices, promoting their independence and confidence. For example, they can choose their tuck in addition to selecting the activities they wish to do.

Children take pride and enjoy displaying their achievements to other members of staff. Their self-esteem is promoted well as staff give appropriate praise and encouragement for both effort and achievement. Good relationships have developed between the children. They have become firm friends and enjoy each others' company. They talk about outings they have been on and are very excited about a forthcoming trip to Drayton Manor theme park. Children are the core of this setting and their views are valued by the staff. They are consulted about the activities and outings which ensures that their time spent at the scheme meets their individual needs and is very enjoyable.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play harmoniously with each other and are generally well behaved. They take turns when playing games and share resources well. Older children are able to take turns and have a good understanding of the consequences of their actions. For example, they advise younger children to sit down on the slide. Staff use appropriate techniques to manage children's behaviour, such as discussion, distraction and positive praise. Children are aware and comply with the rules of the setting. For example, they know not to enter areas outdoors that are out of bounds and why these boundaries are in place.

All children are warmly welcomed into the setting and have equal access to all activities and experiences. Staff obtain sufficient information to enable them to meet the individual needs of the children. Staff are proactive in ensuring all children are fully included in activities and outings. Additional staff support is available for children in order for them to participate fully.

Parents receive basic information about the scheme via a leaflet and inform the setting of their children's individual needs. They are made to feel welcome and staff establish friendly relationships. This helps the children to feel reassured and settled. Information can be shared with parents verbally on a daily basis.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children enjoy the time they spend at the play scheme. They participate in a balanced range of fun activities that motivate them and are organised to sustain their interest. The daily routine offers a balance of adult-led activities, free play and quiet times. Staff are appropriately vetted and qualified. The children benefit from a well established team who are familiar to them. Written procedures are in place to advise adults of their roles and responsibilities in caring for the children. The registration system clearly shows the number of children on the premises although it does not identify how many children under eight years are present. The accommodation is used appropriately and resources used to maximise the play opportunities for all children.

The welfare, care and development of the children are suitably promoted through a range of clear policies and procedures. Children's records are satisfactorily maintained and appropriate records kept on the premises whilst the play scheme is operating, allowing staff easy access to information. Staff work well together as a team, ensuring the children have access to a suitable range of activities and their leisure time is enjoyable. As a result, children are relaxed, happy, occupied and are given choices in the activities they engage in. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a recommendation was made with regard to ensuring children have access to healthy food and drinks. The facility has offered fruit occasionally in the past, and continues to offer

crisps and chocolate biscuits which poses a risk to children's general health. Therefore the recommendation remains.

Complaints 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. There has been one complaint made to Ofsted since April 1 2004.

A complaint was raised with Ofsted regarding the suitability of a member of staff and that the registered person failed to follow the correct procedures for the notification of an allegation against a member of staff. A childcare inspector conducted an unannounced visit to investigate the complaint in relation to National Standard 1

(Suitable Person) and National Standard 13 Child Protection. The registered person had already taken steps to review their Child Protection policy and they had appropriate recruitment procedures in place. We are satisfied that the provider has taken appropriate steps and no further action is necessary. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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 children are provided with healthy choices for food and drink
- ensure the outdoor area is safe and children have no access to discarded items such as an old freezer
- introduce a system for the identification of all children under eight years.

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