



Club Excel Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 130494

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Inspector Maura Pigram

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Registered person Club Excel Playscheme

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?

Club Excel play scheme opened in 2000. It operates from Edge Grove School, High Cross, Aldenham. The play scheme offers sports and activities for children over the age of five years. A mini camp for children aged three to four years is situated in the prep school building with use of the facilities. The extensive outdoor area of the school is mainly used for sports facilities including swimming and tennis. A sports and dance hall are present for indoor activities. The play scheme serves the local and surrounding areas. A maximum of 170 children may attend the scheme at any one time between the ages of three and seven years. Children up to fourteen years may attend. Children register for a variety of sessions. The play scheme welcomes

children with special needs and the group supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The play scheme opens five days a week, at Easter and during the school summer holidays. Sessions are from 09:30 until 15:30 Monday to Friday.

There are currently 200 children aged from three to fourteen on roll. The play scheme employs thirty members of staff. Of these, the majority hold appropriate early years qualifications or have appropriate sports qualifications. The younger members of staff are students. The proprietor is keen to update training for all staff and works in partnership with the local development team.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a broad range of activities that contribute to their health and well-being. They have a positive view of healthy living because the scheme is mainly sports orientated. A wide range of activities take place outdoors enabling the children to benefit from exercise in the fresh air. In fine weather conditions the children spend the majority of their time outdoors taking part in selected sports such as football, swimming and other appropriate ball games. Children taking part in the Performing Arts programme also have ample opportunities to develop their physical skills through the various dance routines and games that they eagerly participate in. Younger children enjoy playing on the bouncy castle or on the 'pirates ship', they also take pleasure from walking along logs where they practise their balancing skills. This means that all children develop their large motor movements and develop their coordination skills in a fun and well organised environment.

Children's meals are provided by their parents and water is easily available for the children to help themselves. A tuck shop is provided for the children to purchase a variety of snacks including healthy options such as dried fruit in individual fun packs. Cartons of juice and bottled water are also available to buy. Dietary and health requirements are discussed, any allergies are recorded and all staff are vigilant and aware of these. As a result of this, children's dietary needs are met and they are well nourished. All children are able to rest or be active according to their needs. This means that children's individual needs are highly regarded.

There are sound systems in place to promote good hygiene routines and to protect children from cross-infection. The children learn about developing good personal hygiene habits for later life such as staff reminding them to wash and dry their hands after using the toilet. Paper towels are easily available, therefore, children can independently carry out their personal needs. There is a clear illness policy in place which is shared with parents through the play scheme's informative policies and procedures. Due to this all children are protected from infectious illness.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright and purpose built environment where risks are identified and minimised through the use of risk assessments. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Regular checks are carried out during every activity to ensure all children are present. Children understand the safety rules, they know for example how many children are allowed on the bouncy castle at any time. Consequently, they are able to play safely because the team are vigilant in ensuring the children's welfare is given a high priority. Visitors wear identifiable badges and there is a clear system in place to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. There is a robust system in place for the arrival and collection of children, staff members greet the parents or carers collecting. They ensure the children are given to an authorised person at the end of the day and a password system is used if necessary.

Children practise the evacuation procedure so they know what to do on an emergency. They discuss rules of games, activities and the correct use of all equipment. During swimming sessions trained lifeguards are on duty and non-swimmers wear suitable aids. Any children taking part in swimming activities are assessed on their swimming ability by appropriate instructors. This means that children's safety is safeguarded. They are further protected from harm because the team have a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. The staff regularly update their knowledge on child protection issues and are aware of policies and procedures to follow should they have any concerns. The majority of staff hold relevant and current first aid certificates. This means that any accidents are quickly and effectively dealt with.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are secure in the play scheme's welcoming and caring environment. They have positive relations with staff. All children acquire new knowledge and skills and respond to challenge because the team thoughtfully plan and provide a wide range of developmentally appropriate activities. The children eagerly participate in these and any questions or concerns are sensitively dealt with. As a result of this, the children have fun and develop a high level of confidence, independence and self-esteem. Resources and space are well used to support play and provide a stable environment for all children including the younger children in mini-camp. Free play is also incorporated into the daily activities. This gives the children time and space for them to use their imagination and to develop social skills such as building friendships and resolving conflict.

Children respond excitingly to a broad range of creative activities. They clearly enjoy their art and craft sessions and the children participating in the Performing Arts sessions take great pleasure from producing a show which parents are invited to. All of the older children enthusiastically take part in the lunchtime entertainment. During this time they relish in cheering and watching their individual and popular coaches

take part in fun and competitive games. Younger children are able to enjoy stories and songs and eagerly join in with the motivated staff. Their programme is well planned and suitable for their age and development. They regularly take part in creative activities such as making imaginative pictures which they take home to share with their families. They also have ample opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities such as playing on the bouncy castle or having a mini-football session. Their individual needs are listened to and staff respond with interest and care. All children easily communicate to the team. As a result of this, the children have great fun and are able to enjoy themselves in a well organised environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel a sense of belonging because the provision welcomes children from all backgrounds. Boys and girls are encouraged to take part in all activities offered. They are highly valued and respected as individuals and their confidence and self-esteem is developed well by the staff, with use of ample praise and encouragement throughout their day.

Adults have high expectations of children's behaviour, and they manage behaviour in a way that is appropriate to their age and stage of development. The team respond to any issues in a calm and polite manner therefore the children are well behaved and are learning good social skills. Children are able to participate fully because activities are thoughtfully adapted to meet their needs. Adults are committed to inclusion and effectively support any children who require assistance. This enables any children with educational needs to be independent and take a full and active part in the setting.

A close partnership with parents and carers contributes to the children's well-being. Parents speak highly of the provision commenting on how their children love attending. They receive informative brochures and letters about the activities their children will be undertaking. There is a flexible settling in procedure ensuring young children feel happy prior to parents leaving. Parents are made aware of the complaints procedure, although the contact details such as the telephone number is not included in the policy. Subsequently, documentation that supports partnership with parents and carers is underdeveloped.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the staff who are mostly qualified sports instructors or are teachers who have relevant experience. The majority of the staff are long term and they work well as a team, sharing thoughts and ideas. They are well deployed, this ensures children receive appropriate adult attention. The team know the children well and provide very good levels of support enabling all the children to fully participate in the thoughtful and appropriate activities. This means that they are able to effectively meet their individual needs. The provider is an excellent role model and is particularly

skilled in interacting with the children. Other members of the team demonstrate high quality interaction with the children. As a result, children enjoy attending the play scheme and have a positive approach to the experiences provided.

The provider is forward thinking in his role and gives high priority to staff development through in-house training. Recent courses include child protection and first aid. During these courses all staff are able to extend or enhance their existing knowledge. Induction procedures are well established and daily discussions such as the morning and afternoon meetings ensure all the staff are fully informed, included and valued. Most of the policies and procedures are clear allowing for the successful running of the setting and the children's welfare and safety are effectively met. There is a sound recruitment and vetting procedure in place and all staff have obtained Criminal Record Bureau Checks. Children's records are confidentiality maintained. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to make parents aware of the regulators contact details and to ensure parents were made aware of the appropriate contents and safe storage of lunch boxes. These have mainly been addressed. The contact details of the regulator are included in the policies. However, this does not include the telephone number. The issue regarding the lunch provision and storage of these has been addressed through the settings policies and discussion with parents on registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by the 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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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):

- ensure the contact details including the telephone number of the regulator are included in the complaints policy.

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