



Simply Play @ St Alfege

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY317553
Inspection date	27 June 2006
Inspector	Debra Davey
Setting Address	St. Alfege & St. Peters C of E Primary School, Creek Road, London, SE10 9RB
Telephone number	07986 953 706
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Registered person	MJS Simply-Play Ltd
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?

Simply Play at St Alfrege is one of two after school clubs run by MSJ Simply Play Ltd. It opened in 2005 and operates from one room in a single storey building in the grounds of St Alfrege school. It is situated close to Greenwich town centre. A maximum of 24 children under eight years may attend the club at any one time. Older children also attend. The club is open each weekday from 15.30 to 18.00 during term time. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 15 children aged from five to 11 years on roll; all are pupils of St Alfrege school. The club is able to support children with learning difficulties and/or

disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs two members of staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate play work qualification and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are kept healthy in the club through good procedures. They understand the importance of hand washing because this has been clearly explained to them by staff; as a result they wash hands when using the bathroom without being reminded. Children bring their own snack to the club and are given a choice of fresh fruit and drinks which they enjoy. There is a club policy which provides detailed advice about suitable lunchbox snacks and discourages junk foods and fizzy drinks. As a result, children are learning about what foods are needed to promote good health. Children regularly help themselves to drinks throughout the session.

Children enjoy a good range of planned outdoor games such as cricket and football to help them learn about what happens to our bodies when we are active. They are able to choose when to play indoors or out and clearly have fun, as staff actively engage with the sports to help them learn the rules and play co-operatively. As a result, children are eager to try a good variety of games such as darts or hockey which they may not have tried before.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe in the after school club because the building is secure and there is a clear collections policy which states that parents must confirm in advance who will collect their child. Staff are able to see who is at the school gate before visitors are invited in which ensures that children are well protected.

Children benefit from a range of stimulating, safe equipment that they are able to access easily; this means that they are able to freely select their play materials, for example, when choosing sports equipment from the cupboard. Equipment is checked regularly by staff to ensure that it conforms to safety standards. Children behave well in the setting which reduces the risk of accident and injury. Although all accidents are clearly recorded, accidents are not countersigned by parents to confirm that they have been informed.

Staff have good understanding of issues relating to child protection and know what to do if they suspect a child is at risk. This ensures that children are kept safe from harm or abuse. Child protection procedures are shared with parents through the clubs policies and procedures but does not currently include procedures for dealing with allegations against staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are able to select from a broad range of art materials and games in the after school club. They concentrate well for extended periods on art activities, for example, making flags of countries involved in the World Cup competition. They engage in fruitful discussions with the staff as they do so and confidently initiate conversation about their school day and the colours of the flags. Outdoor play is popular and the flexible routine ensures that children are able to choose when to play indoors and outside.

Children have a shared responsibility for the programme of activities as their views are sought through the school council and their own comments book. Children also use their initiative for self care, selecting materials and helping to tidy up. This promotes their independence and ensures that they have a relaxed and happy time at the club.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children and staff get to know each other well; detailed and useful information is obtained from parents to enable staff to provide for children's individual needs; this includes information relating to children with learning difficulties and disabilities to ensure that these children are supported and included. Activities are stimulating and encourage children to discuss their community and the wider world, for example, when making displays of the World for the notice board or celebrating multi-cultural festivals such as Chinese New year.

Children behave very well in the after school club and older children are motivated to help younger ones with games and activities. Children show concern for others, for example when a child manages to get soap in his eye, his friends rush to assist. They are able to share their thoughts and ideas in a calm and well organised environment which encourages respect. For example, they enjoy discussion with staff and each other about favourite topics such as football and praise each others completed art work. Relationships between staff and children are good on all levels. For example, children not attending club that particular day will still come in to eagerly show staff their school photographs. This demonstrates that children are supported and their self esteem is promoted well.

Good relationships with parents are fostered through daily discussions with staff and a clear exchange of information. For example, the parent notice board is kept up to date and includes details of activities. Parents are invited into the club to share their skills and join in with activities. This has a positive impact on children's well being.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by efficient and effective organisation. Staff are deployed well to ensure that children are supervised and staff to child ratios are maintained. Staff are well qualified and evidence of staff checks and qualifications are recorded and kept on site. Policies and procedures are clearly collated in the club handbook and made available for staff and parents. This information covers all current legislation such as recruitment, health and safety and equalities issues. As a result staff are well informed, competent and able to successfully provide good care for children in a well organised environment.

Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

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 are no complaints to report since the club registered in 2005.

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 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 that accident records are countersigned by parents.
- update the child protection policy to include dealing with allegations against staff.

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:

