



Brookvale Community Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	960262
Inspection date	09 August 2006
Inspector	Jane Shaw
Setting Address	Northwich Road, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 6PE
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	Halton Play Council Limited
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?

Kaleidoscope Playscheme is one of three holiday playschemes organised and managed by Halton Play Council Limited, Barnados and Chestnut Lodge Extended Schools. It was first registered in 1994 and operates from the main hall within the Brookvale Community Centre in Brookvale, Runcorn in Cheshire.

A maximum of 55 children may attend the scheme at any one time. The scheme is an open access scheme and operates for three weeks during the summer holidays, Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 16.00. Children have access to the main hall, outdoor play space, toilet and hand washing facilities.

There are currently 65 children aged from five to 12 years on roll. Children attending are mainly from the immediate locality and surrounding areas. The scheme currently supports a number of children with disabilities.

The registered provider employs 11 members of staff, some staff are employed through Barnados and others through Halton Play Council. Several staff hold appropriate qualifications or are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for within a clean and healthy environment as scheme and centre staff employ effective routines and procedures to ensure that the areas used by children meet their needs in terms of health and safety. For example, rooms are made clean and tidy between sessions and toilets are regularly checked and cleaned. Children are encouraged to develop their understanding of the need to keep themselves healthy in terms of personal care and hygiene as they are reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet or certain activities, such as painting. Staff have access to and use disposable aprons when dealing with various issues or accidents ensuring children's health. An appropriate sick child policy, which is shared with parents and carers ensures that children are cared for within an environment which is as free from infection as far as is practically possible. First aid qualified staff respond quickly and appropriately to children's accidents and liaise with parents and carers ensuring they are up to date with issues involving their children. Children's safety and placements are supported by the use of suitable medication and accident recording systems which are signed by parents or carers ensuring they are kept up to date with children's care and well-being.

Children enjoy a range of healthy foods at snack time, which includes fruit, crackers, sugar free fruit juice and water. Children are seen enthusiastically queuing for snacks at 'tuck shop' time. Children have an understanding of their own health needs and are able to request drinks during the session, which are made readily available. Children learn about healthy eating through discussion, for example, staff from the Healthy Eating Team visit to talk to them about eating healthily and involve the children in making a variety of fruit smoothies.

Staff provide good opportunities for children's physical health as they offer them regular opportunities to be outdoors in the fresh air and make good use of the centre's outdoor play space to involve the children in a range of activities. Children also enjoy trips away from the setting, for example, a fun day and a trip to the zoo.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff use the available space appropriately to provide the children with access to a range of activities and experiences. The main hall is divided into specific play areas,

for example, craft and quiet areas, and is used to provide children with large physical activities as routine but also during bad weather. Outdoor play space is well used to offer the children physical play opportunities in the form of the centre's climbing frame and other activities. Children are able to move freely between indoor and outdoor activities. The areas and activities are planned prior to children's arrival creating a welcoming environment.

Children access a variety of toys and equipment, which supports the range of activities, for example, varied materials and resources for craft activities and outdoor toys and equipment, such as bats and balls. Toys and equipment are regularly checked for safety and hygiene ensuring that children are safe at all times during their play. Children are encouraged to be aware of their own safety through discussion.

Children are cared for within a safe and secure environment. Staff are alert to the children's safety at all times by regularly checking areas used, toys and equipment prior to use by the children. Daily checks and more detailed risk assessments are conducted ensuring children's safety at all times. Although this is an open access scheme, staff would make contact with parents and carers if a child wished to leave, ensuring their safety. Staff conduct a fire drill at the beginning of the scheme to ensure children's safety in the event of this occurring, however, this does not include all children who will attend throughout the scheme's operation. Written records kept of this evacuation do not include the required details.

Children's welfare is given due consideration as staff are aware of signs and symptoms to be alert to and the scheme's procedures for reporting concerns. An appropriate policy and information regarding procedures and contact details for child protection services are in place and available for staff, parents and carers, however, some details are missing. Parents and carers are made aware of the scheme's responsibility to their children in terms of their child's welfare through a written statement on their child's enrolment form.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the scheme, they are happy and engaged in the variety of play experiences and opportunities. Children express that they have 'fun', enjoying the different experiences, particularly the various craft activities. Children are able to meet school friends and make new ones as they join in with one another in activities.

Staff plan a programme of activities for children, however, these plans are flexible and enable children to have choice about their involvement in activities and can be adapted to meet children's particular interests. Activities are changed between the morning and afternoon sessions to sustain children's enthusiasm. Children have opportunities to choose whether to relax and be involved in quieter activities, such as reading and craft, or to be active and participate in physical activities, such as outdoor play. Children access toys, equipment and activities that cover a range of play experiences, for example, imaginary play using various small world equipment, craft, tabletop activities and quieter activities, such as board games and reading.

Staff provide children with regular physical play opportunities both in and outdoors and away from the setting. Children access climbing equipment in the outdoor play space, bats, balls and other outdoor equipment. Staff arrange for visitors to the session to enhance children's physical play opportunities, for example, the local rugby team, judo trainer, and sports coaches involving the children in new age curling and boccia.

Children's small physical and manipulative skills are encouraged as they are involved in craft activities, for example, as they create models from 'junk'. Hand-eye co-ordination is developed as they join in with a variety of board games, such as junior monopoly, and craft activities, such as glass painting. Other visitors to the setting include a clown, and art teachers giving children opportunities to develop specific art techniques. Children are also involved in learning various circus skills.

Children are happy and well supported by staff as they participate with children in their activities, for example, as they join in with group activities, such as ring games and singing. Children have opportunities to be away from the setting as they join trips to the zoo and fun day.

Staff enable children to have some input into the planning of activities and future ideas as staff involve them in completing questionnaires about the scheme.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed on the scheme and have access to all activities and opportunities offered. Children are encouraged to think about one another as they share and take turns patiently with activities. The range of activities and opportunities are offered to all children and address their equality of opportunity. Children's individual needs and circumstances are known to the staff enabling them to make appropriate arrangements to meet these needs, for example, food allergies.

The scheme is fully inclusive and staff work well with children with particular needs providing them with appropriate support, which enables them to take an active part in and fully access all the activities offered. Some staff are experienced in working with children with particular needs and work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to ensure that all children participate in the activities offered.

Children's behaviour is good as they are well stimulated and involved in well planned activities. They are encouraged to share and take turns with toys, equipment and opportunities. Staff are clear and consistent about their expectations of children's behaviour, they are aware of and use appropriate strategies to manage children's behaviour, focusing on positive praise and encouragement.

Children's placements are supported by good partnerships with parents and carers. Staff obtain relevant information about children's needs and requirements and other relevant information ensuring that their safety and well-being is addressed. Staff give verbal feedback to parents and carers on their child's time at the scheme wherever possible. They have access to information about the scheme, policies and

procedures and what it has to offer their children in the form of a 'parent's pack', which is available at all times whilst the scheme is in operation. Parents and carers are also asked to complete an evaluation form.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Good staff-child ratios ensure that children are cared for safely. The manager, who has responsibility for the day to day running of the scheme is cleared through Barnados, but has not completed the required Ofsted checks for persons in charge. Some play council staff do not yet have clearance, however, the manager ensures that these staff are supervised ensuring children's safety at all times.

All staff complete a weeks induction training through the Play Council, which includes health and safety, first aid and child protection. Several staff have undertaken the 'Take Five' training. Staff are qualified in first aid ensuring that accidents and incidents are dealt with promptly and appropriately ensuring children's safety and well-being at all times.

Premises are organised on a daily basis. Both indoor and outdoor space is set out prior to children's arrival and offers them access to a variety of play experiences.

Legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection, the registered provider was asked to improve children's safety by ensuring that evidence of gas, electrical and fire safety checks are made available to show that these conform to the required safety standards. Evidence is available to confirm that fire fighting equipment is checked as required and that the electrical installation check is up to date. However, evidence was not available to show that the gas installation check has been completed as legally required.

The registered provider was also asked to provide an operational policy for outings. The scheme have a detailed outings policy and procedure to ensure children's safety. Parents and carers are also asked to give their written consent for their child to be involved in trips away from the setting.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 all children are involved in fire evacuations and that written records of evacuations contains the required details, ensure the gas installation check is undertaken as legally required
- amend the child protection policy to include details as required by the National Standards and Local Safeguarding Children's Board
- ensure the member of staff who has day to day responsibility for the scheme completes the required Ofsted clearance.

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