



Cornwallis Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY229665
Inspection date	09 August 2006
Inspector	Gabrielle Pollock
Setting Address	Cornwallis Road, London, N19 4LP
Telephone number	020 7281 1512
E-mail	
Registered person	Islington Young People's Services
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?

Cornwallis Adventure Playground is one of a number of provisions run by Islington Young People's Services. It opened in 2002 and operates from a log cabin, with access to two group rooms, one enclosed sports pitch and an open area for outdoor play, in the London borough of Islington. A maximum of 30 children may attend the centre at any one time. The centre is open Tuesday to Friday, from 16:00 to 19:00 and Saturdays from 11:30 to 16:30, during term-time and each week-day, from 08:00 to 17:30 during school holidays.

There are currently 18 children aged from five to under eight years on roll. Children

over eight years also attend the centre.

The centre employs three permanent and eight seasonal members of staff. Of these, all permanent members of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications, of the seasonal members of staff five hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment where they learn to follow good hygiene practices. There are effective procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection and children are learning about hygiene, through relevant discussions and activities such as when cooking or before meals. An exclusion policy for children with infectious diseases is in place, thus preventing the spread of infection.

There are three members of staff who hold a current first aid certificate and there is a qualified first aider on duty at all times. This means they can give appropriate care should a child become ill or if there is an accident. The accident record is not signed by parents to acknowledge the entry. Parents give prior written consent to administer medication, and this ensures that children receive the correct dose according to their needs. Although staff are aware of details to log, there is no medication system in place to record medicines administered to children and parents' wishes regarding the seeking of medical advice or treatment have not been sought. This impacts on children's safety.

Staff gather all relevant information regarding diet and medical history. This ensures that children's individual dietary and medical needs are met. Lunches provided by parents are stored appropriately and children enjoy sitting together and socialising in a relaxed atmosphere. They are learning about healthy eating options during cooking activities, for example when making vegetable spring rolls or samosas. However, not all of their 'tuck shop' options are healthy, but staff are aware of this and are implementing projects to raise children's awareness.

Children regularly enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their health and develop their physical skills. These include organised games and sports activities such as football, ice skating, swimming and fishing. Children demonstrate a good sense of space and move confidently during physical activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in an organised environment that allows them to move around freely and safely. Good staff interaction helps develop children's awareness of safety within the setting and they have easy and safe access to a good range of toys and resources appropriate to their age. The premises are secured appropriately to allow

children free access and there are adequate systems in place to prevent unwanted visitors gaining access. However, children attending the open access scheme and parents collecting their children do not sign themselves out and the children's register is not maintained accurately.

Regular risk assessments enable staff to identify and quickly address potential hazards within the setting. Children benefit from a good range of safety measures at the setting, for example, effective emergency evacuation procedures and fire safety equipment.

Staff have a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues and know how to proceed, if they have concerns about a child in their care. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed, they settle into the setting and quickly engage in an activity of their choice. They gain confidence through consistent routines and close relationships with the friendly and caring staff, who are aware of their individual needs.

Varied activities are laid out for the children and there is a system so that children can choose other toys, resources and activities that are not readily available, through talking to staff or children's meetings. Children work well independently and co-operate well when working together as a group. There is a calm and productive atmosphere and good staffing ratios enable the staff to give one to one support to children when necessary, for example, when the children request help with a painting activity or the head pieces they are making for the forthcoming Carnival.

Children are skilled at using a variety of climbing equipment and their large and fine motor skills are developing well. They demonstrate very good physical co-ordination, for example, when climbing and swinging on the adventure play equipment or during art and craft or cooking activities when using scissors and knives.

Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as art and craft, painting, dancing, listening to and playing music and role-play. Children enjoy showing a dance routine they have choreographed themselves.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff have a positive attitude towards diversity and are good role models, helping children learn the importance of showing respect for all.

Staff encourage all children to participate in the activities provided. This ensures children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential. They have access to some resources that provide a positive outlook on the wider world,

such as books, and children are involved in many activities to broaden their understanding, such as cooking foods from around the world and preparing costumes and being involved in the Notting Hill Carnival.

The staff have experience of caring for children with special needs. This means they are able to adapt activities to ensure all children are included.

Children's behaviour is generally very good. They are polite, enjoy playing together and show care and concern for one another. Behaviour management strategies are appropriate, according to the age and level of understanding of children in attendance. Children benefit from lots of praise and encouragement and from some basic ground rules that they have helped devise.

The partnership with parents is good. Parents provide appropriate and relevant information about their children to the staff. Parents are involved in the setting and are aware of what is going on through daily, verbal feedback, the notice board or newsletters and family day trips. This helps to ensure children receive individual care and attention. Although complaints are recorded, the log is not in line with current legislation and the National Standards.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from an organised environment, where they receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident.

There are effective recruitment procedures in place. Induction training ensures staff understand the policies and procedures, so they can contribute to the safety and welfare of children. There are suitable contingency plans in place to cover for absences, to ensure children always have appropriate supervision. Ofsted have not been notified of the change in manager. Although this is a breach of regulation, it has a limited impact on children.

Staff attend relevant training courses, which helps to ensure they have sufficient knowledge of current childcare practices to support the care and learning of the children.

Record keeping is generally good, appropriately maintained and stored confidentially.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the group agreed to: ensure that the child protection procedure for the adventure playground complies with local Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures; ensure that the premises comply with Building Regulations, for example the drains; make available to parents a behaviour policy that provides details on how children's behaviour will be managed by staff in the setting, and make

available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint.

Group have Islington Child Protection Procedures including booklet of London Child Protection Procedures and updated with Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Drains and toilets were cleared at Easter time. All policies and procedures are available to parents in a file inclusive of behaviour management and complaints and a small booklet with setting information lists all the group's policies and procedures.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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):

- obtain parents signatures in the accident record to acknowledge the entry
- devise a system for the recording of medication administered to children
- request written permission from parents for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment
- keep a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of the change to the day to day manager

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:

