



Moss Side Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	500144
Inspection date	03 August 2006
Inspector	Angela Cuffe
Setting Address	Moss Side Adventure Playground, Whitnall Street, Manchester, M16 7NH
Telephone number	0161 226 3311
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Registered person	Manchester Young Lives
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?

Moss Side Adventure playground opened in 1996. It is part of the organisation Manchester Young Lives and operates from an indoor playroom and a large adventure playground in the Moss Side area of Manchester. A maximum of 55 children may attend at any one time. The Adventure playground is open each weekday from 15.30 to 18.00 term time and 10.00 to 16.00 in the school holidays. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 250 children aged from four to under eight years on roll and children over the age of eight attend on a daily basis. Children come from the local

area.

The club employs 4 members of staff. Of these, 3 hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment where they learn the importance of hygiene and personal care. They talk about the need to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating to prevent the spread of germs. The children enjoy activities which contribute to their good health. They have use of the outside adventure play ground; including the large play apparatus and swings. They also go on trips where they benefit from fresh air and exercise, socialise with other children and learn about the local community and the wider environment. The staff understand the issues surrounding the safe storage and administration of medication.

Children understand the benefit of a healthy diet from the choice of snacks available to them and the regular discussions and activities provided. Snacks are varied and nutritious and include fresh fruit and a choice of healthy drinks. The staff are aware of the need to consider parents' wishes when providing food for the children in their care. Children's individual needs are discussed on induction, and the food provided is displayed for parents to see. Children understand the importance of taking regular drinks. They either help themselves or ask for a drink when they are thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the welcoming environment. They benefit from the ability to move around and freely choose from the toys and activities available. There is a good range of toys and equipment which are well organised and stored within easy reach of the children. The children have sufficient space to play comfortably indoors and access to a large adventure playground for outdoor play. The risk of accidental injury is minimised by the regular checking of play materials and risk assessments of the play areas.

Children enjoy outdoor play. Discussions about road safety, stranger danger and regular fire drills give the children a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe. However, Children's safety is not met because the access to the building is not always managed appropriately. Children understand their own needs and respect the needs of others, they often share responsibility for decisions about the provision. Staff understand and follow the settings policies and procedures to protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are motivated and interested in a broad range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities, which provide good levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. A stimulating environment and happy atmosphere, ensures that children have positive experiences and enjoy their leisure time. Children relate well with each other. The older children enjoy playing with the younger children to make them feel welcome. The staff have established warm, caring, relationships with the children and they spend time playing and talking to them. Staff listen attentively to what children are saying and respond positively to their questions. As a result, the children are relaxed, happy and secure.

Children are busy and occupied throughout the session. The staff allow children the space and freedom to make choices. Children initiate the play as they independently help themselves to games and resources. They really enjoy the activities and play together harmoniously. The children express themselves with creative materials and show pride in their work and achievements. They enjoy the adventure playground and laugh out loud as they play on the commando swing and the large tyre rope swing. The children play well together and patiently wait for their turn on the swings and slides. Older children help the younger ones by passing them the swing and helping them onto it. Some children prefer to relax and have a quiet game of pool indoors. Staff plan and provide a broad range of activities for the children, which are appropriate to their ages and interest. As a result, the children are independent, make confident choices in their play, are making friends and developing skills in negotiations as they play and enjoy themselves.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children value each other as individuals. They learn about different cultures through the activities provided and the equipment available to them. Staff create an environment so that all children feel valued. As a result, children accept each others differences and relate well to one another. They make their own decisions about whether they want to take part in an activity and confidently inform staff about their needs. Staff divide their attention well and treat the children with equal concern. This establishes a sense of security and trusting relationships are formed. The range of resources, which reflect diversity, celebrations of different festivals, and activities, promote children's understanding of the world around them.

Children's efforts and achievements are acknowledged, recognised and praised appropriately. They are well behaved as they know and understand the expectations of staff. Staff's use of praise and positive reinforcement promotes and supports good behaviour. Children's efforts and achievement are recognised and celebrated, which fosters their self-confidence. As a consequence, children are happy and confident.

Parents are made to feel welcome and staff establish friendly relationships. This helps the children to feel reassured and settled. Information is shared with parents

verbally and in regular news letters.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's needs are met through effective organisation. The daily routine offers a balance of adult led activities, free play and quiet times. The staff ensure children have sufficient space in order to play in comfort. Play materials are organised to promote children's independence and encourage choices about their play. Children are at home in the comfortable and welcoming surroundings and have settled in well.

Records and documentation are of a high standard. Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place and shared with parents. This promotes children's welfare by contributing to the continuity of their care. Staff are able to access in-house training and children benefit from the staff's commitment to their professional development. The staff work well together as a team, ensuring the children have access to a suitable range of play materials 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 the provider agreed to ensure appropriate fire drill procedures are in place and ensure good food hygiene practices are in place.

Fire drills are practised on a regular basis and recorded appropriately. All areas used to prepare food are clean and well maintained. Food hygiene practices are in order.

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 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 access to the building is monitored at all times.

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