



## Lion Farm Playcentre

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	255253
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 August 2006
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<b>Registered person</b>	Sandwell Adventure Play Association
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Sessional 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](http://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?

Lion Farm Play Centre - Sandwell Adventure Play Association (SAPA) opened in 1974. It operates from a two storey building on the Lion Farm Estate, which SAPA have sole use. Lion Farm Play Centre provides three services; a pre-school playgroup, open access Play Centre and an out of school club. There is a separate entrance for the out of school care provision which is located on the first floor, and a separate entrance for the open access Play Centre, from which the play group also operates at separate times. Both ground floor and first floor areas have a large play room, toilets, kitchen and the use of adjacent fields. The provisions serve the local community.

There are currently five children aged from five to eight years on roll attending the play scheme. Children with special needs are welcomed.

All facilities are open Monday to Friday. The playgroup is open 13:00 to 14:45 term time only. The out of school club is open 14:30 to 18:00 term time and 08:00 to 18:00 during school holidays. The Play Centre open access service is open 15:15 to 18:00 term time and 12:00 to 15:00 during school holidays.

There are two staff working with the children, both of whom hold recognised child care qualifications and first aid certificates.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene through well established daily routines. They are independent in self-care skills such as hand washing before snack time. Children benefit from a flexible routine that give them opportunities to enjoy relaxing activities such as reading or watching television. Children's health needs are well supported as procedures are in place to ensure children are cared for appropriately if they become ill or have an accident.

Children develop a positive approach to exercise through regular opportunities for physical activity both indoors and outside. They use the local park for team games and energetic play. Children have a good awareness of space and use a wide range of small and large equipment, for example, construction sets, paints, bats and balls. They design and make models such as a 'junk model robot' and practice cutting and sticking skills very confidently and successfully.

Children's dietary needs are met through parents providing food and written information about their child's preferences. Children bring a packed lunch each day and they are provided with drinks which help to keep them hydrated. Children learn about healthy living because the group include topics on 'healthy eating', where they are encouraged to taste different kinds of fruit and juices.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in an environment which is clean and well-maintained, where they have access to a wide range of safe and appropriate toys and resources. Children are closely supervised and staff complete daily safety checks. Access to the premises is monitored and there is a visitor's book in place, however, this is not always used consistently and staff attendance is not recorded. This compromises the swift and accurate retrieval of information in the event of an emergency.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe as staff are deployed effectively and are vigilant about children's safety indoors and outside. Outside visitors, including a

'Road Safety Officer' visit the setting and talk to the children, helping to raise their awareness about safety issues. Evacuation procedures are practised regularly and children evacuate the building calmly and sensibly. This helps children learn how to react in an emergency situation.

Children are well protected from potential abuse or neglect as staff have a sound knowledge of child protection issues and are clear about reporting procedures.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children arrive at the setting happy and enthusiastic. They eagerly initiate conversations about their day with staff and the other children. Children get on very well together and are confident in their relationships. They talk to each other whilst playing snooker and negotiate taking turns. Children can choose between a good variety of activities including, snooker, table football, a 'play station' and art activities. All children enjoy painting and collage activities and can bring activities from home such as a 'potter's wheel' to make clay pots. Children have good opportunities to take part in a range of activities which they find interesting and enjoyable. They enjoy trips to 'Cannon Hill Park', 'Sandwell Valley' and 'Walsall Arboretum'.

Children acquire new knowledge and skills as the staff plan challenging activities, including sewing. Children's work is attractively displayed within this welcoming environment. This helps children to feel valued and appreciated. Children begin to distinguish between right and wrong as they have devised their own 'ground rules' detailing how they want each other to behave. Children are praised for helping to tidy-up efficiently. Staff respond promptly and with genuine interest to children's questions and conversations.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Staff recognise the importance of building children's self-esteem by appreciating their contributions, achievements and displaying their work. Children are learning about diversity as staff plan activities linked to themes such as, 'The Caribbean'. As part of this theme children take part in food tasting and 'dressing-up' in traditional costumes. Children have access to toys and equipment that reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability. Children make choices and take decisions because they move around the setting freely and choose their own activities. Their opinions are valued and sought through discussions and questionnaires. They are asked what they are interested in and help to plan their own programme of activities.

Children understand the play scheme rules which helps them learn to take responsibility for their own behaviour, encouraged by a 'star system' that rewards good behaviour. Staff act as good role models. They treat children with respect and clearly enjoy children's company. They discuss how they like to be treated and

reciprocate by treating children with respect and acceptance.

Children's individual needs are well-supported because relationships with parents are good. Parents are welcomed into this friendly setting. Staff liaise with parents to ensure that children's records contain information which enables appropriate care to be given. Children are looked after according to parent's wishes and there are appropriate procedures in place for keeping parents informed about the service.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from attending this friendly play scheme. Children enjoy and participate fully in the activities because space and resources are well-organised. Recruitment and vetting procedures ensures children are well protected and cared for by suitable staff. The routine is designed to support children having freedom of choice and there are opportunities for spontaneous activities as the children develop their own ideas and play.

Children's personal information is stored securely. This helps to maintain confidentiality. The setting's policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health and safety. However, the policy on 'lost and uncollected children' has yet to be added to the staff handbook for easy reference. Required documentation, which contributes to the children's well-being is in place and is regularly reviewed the senior management team within SAPA (Sandwell Adventure Play Association). They complete an annual report that details exactly what the group has achieved over the last 12 months and this is published for parents to read. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The setting have made good progress in addressing the recommendations from the previous inspection. All records are now stored in a locked cupboard, ensuring confidentiality. The complaints procedure has been updated to include Ofsted's contact details. The attendance register and emergency evacuation procedures have been reviewed and updated. The range of resources reflecting positive images has been improved. The policy on 'lost and uncollected children' has been reviewed and updated, but has yet to be included in the staff manual. This has been carried forward as a recommendation from this inspection.

## **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 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.

## 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 attendance records reflect who is attending the setting including staff and visitors
- ensure policy on 'lost and uncollected' children is included in staff manual.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)