



Longsight Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	500132
Inspection date	31 August 2006
Inspector	Julie Firth
Setting Address	Wilson Street, Manchester, Lancashire, M13 9EX
Telephone number	0161 273 8324
E-mail	Isap@manchesteryounglives.org.uk
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?

Manchester Young Lives was registered in 1991 and it is situated in Longsight Adventure Playground. The children have access to an enclosed outdoor playground with fixed play equipment and two rooms inside the premises.

The playground is open from 15:30 to 18:30, Tuesday to Friday and from 13:00 to 17:00 on Saturday. During school holidays it operates from 09:30 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 16:00, closing for all statutory bank holidays and the Christmas holiday period.

The play scheme serves the local community and offers 55 children places to

children on a first come basis, there are 285 children on roll. The setting currently supports children with additional needs or disabilities and who speak English as an additional language.

There is a qualified manager and five staff of whom over half hold play work qualifications. All staff attend an introductory training course in play work. The setting receives support from The Manchester Play Team.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from illness and infection because the staff conscientiously follow current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines. There are good routines in place for the cleaning of the premises and both staff and children are involved in keeping the premises clean and tidy. Staff are suitably qualified in first aid to enable them to appropriately treat children with minor injuries. Children clearly understand simple good health and hygiene practices. They wash their hands before handling food and after using the bathroom and messy play.

Daily indoor and outdoor routines include activities to help children develop physical and gross motor skills and promote a healthy lifestyle. Children have an understanding of how exercise is important to keep fit and children are taken to the fitness centre within their own building. They participate in a well being project involving relaxation and facial spas. They make good use of the outdoor area balancing and climbing on the large fixed equipment. Individual children gain confidence, test out their coordination and organisation skills in team games, such as swing ball, volley ball, football and badminton.

Children understand the importance of having regular drinks to stay hydrated, as they help themselves to the jugs of water at all times. They enjoy nutritious snacks and are given a variety of fruits throughout each session. Snack time enhances their social skills and they are involved in planning their own menus after school. Posters are displayed around the rooms promoting healthy eating. The children's dietary requirements are met well as staff work with parents in finding out their child's requirements and respectfully follow these.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, stimulating, indoor and outdoor environment. The two main halls and the outdoor play area are appropriately organised ensuring a balanced range of activities for children. Children move around in a safe environment where risks are identified, minimised and reviewed at staff meetings. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the health and safety policies and how to keep children safe. There are procedures for signing children in and out of the open access play scheme to enable them to be accounted for at all times. Children are

learning to keep themselves safe and respect boundaries making their own rules and regulations. They demonstrate an understanding of emergency escape procedures and practise fire drills regularly. All children are well protected as there are clear child protection procedures in place.

Children confidently choose from an accessible, wide range of toys and equipment that are age appropriate. They develop independence as they choose from equipment, which is easily accessed on low tables or at floor level around the room. The resources are clean, safe and well maintained to ensure the children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children talk positively about their experiences in the play scheme. There are wonderful relationships throughout the setting producing a harmonious and happy environment. This increases the children's sense of trust. Older children show a high level of enthusiasm when looking after younger children, helping them to settle and become confident. There is a great emphasis on making friendships around the play scheme. Children participate in activities that are all exceptionally linked to their development and keeps them highly stimulated. Well devised weekly planning is in place, which involves the children's contributions and detailed evaluations. High quality adult-child led activities and flexible approach to planning help the children's self-esteem and enjoyment. When they start the play scheme staff find out about their skills and needs and build on this information to help them achieve their full potential. Children are involved in summer and winter themes, gardening, bark tree rubbings, face painting, outdoor parachute, making pot herbs, nature trails around the playground, baking, making pop corn and creating flags.

A well thought out outdoor play area, a good selection of board games and the use of the games console helps children to achieve better levels of concentration, and enhance their conversation with each other. Staff encourage children to read for pleasure and choose from a good range of books in the quiet area. They fully question the children successfully to challenge their thinking and language skills and constantly ask them about the activity, promoting colours and numbers at all times. Children work with paints, different textures and collage materials when making mod roc, kites, clay models, summer frieze and masks. They relish their involvement at the end of play scheme reward week, where they are nominated for their good work completed at the play scheme and when helping others. Children are taken out on in turn on a considerable amount of trips to places of interest, such as the seaside, the Maze and adventure theme parks, during their time in the play scheme. Children become engrossed when making a thank you card for a member of staff and take great delight when telling their parents and visitors about their superb day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed on arrival to the play scheme. The staff are good role models

and have good strategies in place for achieving appropriate behaviour. Children are encouraged to share and play harmoniously and are well behaved. They contribute to the making of ground rules. They are aware that certain rules and respect are required to maintain a safe and fair environment, where they can play happily and have fun. Staff promote children's self-esteem and confidence as they praise their efforts and make space around the hall to display their work.

Children receive good staff support to ensure they all feel included. There are a sufficient range of toys and resources in place that reflect different cultures. Posters displayed around the hall give children an understanding of how to deal with racism. However, there are limited activities and equipment available that promote disability and gender to enable children to have an awareness of all diversity.

Staff have built up good relationships with parents and create a welcoming atmosphere. Positive remarks from parents indicate a good service is provided for all children. A well informed notice board displays detailed policies and procedures. They receive verbal feedback on a daily basis about their child's activities and they can discuss any concerns they may have. This effective communication between parents and staff helps to promote children's welfare, safety and developmental progress and provides consistency and care for all children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Effective recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are protected and cared for by staff. The manager is committed to improving the quality of care they provide for children and encourages the staff to attend further training. She meets regularly with staff to ensure they are all aware of recent developments. She has a secure knowledge of child development and works closely with the nearby school and Manchester Play Team. Children are appropriately supervised both indoors and outdoors and staff work well as a team, as they access and respond to the children's interests. Children are happy and settled in a calm environment and enjoy choosing activities from the interesting options available. The accommodation is divided into areas to ensure the children experience a range of different types of activities. Children follow a structured routine and there is a comprehensive operational plan in place demonstrating that staff regard the well-being of all children.

A comprehensive booklet of policies and procedures are in place, which contributes to the safety and well-being of children being cared for. These are shared with parents to keep them informed about their service and their child's activities. However, the Ofsted number is not clearly displayed for parents in the event of a complaint. All children's records are in place and correctly maintained.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

On the last inspection the staff were asked to record all staff's arrivals and departures. Staff's arrivals and departures are now recorded appropriately to ensure ratios are adhered to at all times, enhancing children's safety.

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.

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):

- provide equipment and resources that promote disability and gender with young children
- display and make parents aware of the Ofsted number when making a complaint.

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