



Mowmacre Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	260279
Inspection date	17 August 2005
Inspector	Felicity Norton
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Registered person	Mowmacre Playground
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?

Mowmacre playground is run by a committee. It is a registered charity and is part of the young people's play development association. It was established in 1992. The playground is registered to provide out of school care for 40 children aged from 5 years to under 8 years. The group also run various sessions for older children. The group operates during the school holidays. Session vary depending on funding. Opening times are from 10:00 to 13:00. It is an open access scheme.

At present there are 40 children on roll under 8 years. Children have access to the main hall, games room, toilets and an enclosed outdoor area. Children attending

reflect the diverse culture of the area. At present there are no children in attendance for whom English is an additional language and the group support two children who have special needs.

There are 20 staff working within the setting. There is one leader who has overall responsibility, one paid under eight's leader, three who work as a deputy to the leader, nine paid assistants, and six volunteers. Thirteen members of staff hold a recognised qualification appropriate to the post.

The playground is used by other providers in the area.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy due to the practitioners understanding and implementation of current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines, policies and procedures. However, not all accidents are recorded and this impacts on the safety and welfare of the children. Five staff hold a current health and hygiene certificate. The provision operates a no medication policy, however procedures are in place if medication is required.

Children understand simple good health and hygiene practices and wash their hands before eating. They know where to get a drink and food when they are thirsty and hungry, and freely access these opportunities with children purchasing snacks and drinks independently from the tuck shop. However, the variety of snacks on are not always nutritious or healthy and do not encourage children to acquire a balanced and nutritious diet. Staff work well with parents to ensure that children have their health and dietary needs met. Opportunities are provided for parents to come and discuss issues with staff and the documentation is given to parents. Children who become ill at the scheme are kept quiet and comfortable until parents are contacted and arrive to take the children home.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment, all eventualities are risk assessed and the children are safety conscious. There is one member of staff responsible for registering children under the age of eight into the scheme, the setting does not have a signing out register due to it being an open access scheme, however this is monitored by staff and the children under eights know to inform staff that they were going home and leaving the premises. Staff are deployed effectively with at least two members of staff in every area to ensure that children can wander around the open access scheme and are protected ensuring that strangers do not approach the children. Children are provided with a good variety of safe equipment such as craft and sports materials that is clean and robust. Children are aware of fire safety procedures, there are good fire

procedures in place and all children are informed of these during their time at the scheme.

Children are not afraid to try new things and are learning to keep themselves safe through discussions with staff, for example they inform staff when they are leaving the premises and going home. Younger children are fully encompassed into activities and not afraid to try new things, they ask for activities to be adapted to meet their individual needs such as when they are playing outside but are made aware of safety issues by staff when required such as being asked to put their shoes on because they may hurt their feet. Children are protected because staff understand the importance of safeguarding children and are able to put appropriate child protection procedures into practice when required.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's confidence and self esteem is developing well. They interact with staff frequently and are encouraged to do things for themselves such as open their sweets and start scoobies. They show an interest in what they do, freely accessing inside and outside activities throughout the session with some children going from the sports day to the arts and craft areas inside. Children are open and confident when speaking, they are able to use explanation when questioned about their play and freely ask questions to staff, other children and visitors.

Children work together to solve problems and are given plenty of opportunities to use their initiative through play, for example children were playing on the roundabout experimenting with different ways to climb on it and around it, other children were working together on how they were going to get the sand from one place to another. Children feel valued in what they say and eagerly engage in conversations with staff members. They talk to staff about a variety of issues and staff communicate directly with the children, mimicking their mannerisms such as giving high fives.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Good staff support and deployment means that children are included, involved and encouraged to participate in all activities. Children with special needs receive a good level of support to enable them to attend the scheme and feel included. Children feel a sense of belonging because they have a good relationship with staff, there is an effective system that means children have someone they are familiar with, that they can talk to. Parents receive detailed information about the scheme and speak highly of the quality of care provided, including how excited their children are to attend.

Children enjoy making choices about their activities and care. They are able to take decisions about what they play with and where they play during the session, which promotes their independence. Children are clear about the rules of the scheme, as a result they behave well, take turns, are considerate of each other and understand

why there are consequences if they misbehave. Children understand their own needs and begin to respect the needs of others. Children's awareness of wider society is suitably promoted through a range of resources, activities and discussion.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children settle easily, they feel comfortable and secure and enjoy their time at the scheme. There are high staff ratios and a good level of support is provided. Children's care is enhanced by the efficient and effective organisation of staff and resources. Good organisation and detailed preparation ensures that children's needs are met through a range of well planned activities.

Children are cared for by staff who have relevant experience, knowledge and skills, all of whom have a thorough induction and attend daily evaluation sessions. The manager has not acquired a qualification appropriate to the post, however, his knowledge, experience and skills ensure that children's needs are met. Policies and procedures are accurately maintained and carefully organised and fully support children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement. The thorough recruitment and induction process, ensures that appropriate checks are undertaken on staff and as a result children's safety and welfare is protected. Overall the provision meets the needs of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to ensure that all persons over 16 complete all necessary paperwork to enable Ofsted to complete the vetting procedures. This has been undertaken, there have been some changes to staff since the last inspection, the setting has carried out all the appropriate checks. As a result children's safety and welfare is maintained. The setting has devised clear risk assessments and written procedures to be followed with regard to administering medication, behaviour management, child protection, sickness, special needs, complaints and have made these available to all parents. The setting has obtained public liability insurance, devised an action plan detailing how the manager will achieve a level three qualification and now maintains a record of all visitors to the premises. All of which promote children's safety and welfare.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 that food is nutritious
- ensure that a record is maintained, signed by the parent, of any accidents

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