



Addiscombe Childcare Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY288562
Inspection date	06 November 2006
Inspector	Denys Rasmussen
Setting Address	Davidson Junior School, Dartnell Road, Addiscombe, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 6JA
Telephone number	0208 655 3150
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Registered person	Croydon Play Plus
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?

Addiscombe Childcare Centre is one of six after school clubs managed by Play Plus. Play Plus is a charitable organisation working to provide supervised play activities for primary school children in the borough of Croydon.

The club opened in 2000 and operates from the dining hall in Davidson Primary school. The group also has use of a creative area, office, designated children's toilet and cloakroom facilities and the school's outdoor play area. The club does not have sole use of the premises during session times.

A maximum of 70 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 07:45 to 09:00 for breakfast club and 15:00 to 18:00 term time. The centre also offers a holiday play scheme during the school holidays which opens from 08.30 to 18.00. This inspection focused on the after school provision.

There are currently 53 children aged from four to 14 years on roll. The club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club employs 11 members of staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children's health and medical needs are made known to the staff and recorded appropriately on their registration forms. This enables the staff to be fully aware of each child's health and care needs and to be able to provide for them accordingly. Staff have attended appropriate training with outside professionals to ensure they are qualified to meet children's individual health needs; they also follow individual health plans. This ensures the correct procedures are followed to keep children healthy. Over half the staff team are qualified in first aid. There is at least one staff member on duty indoors and on outings that has first aid knowledge, which means accidents are dealt with appropriately. The provision maintains an accurate record of accidents and administered medication. This ensures that parents are kept informed. The children recognise the importance of good personal hygiene. They wash their hands after toileting, managing this independently. The use of liquid soap and hot air dryers helps to prevent the risk of cross-contamination.

The children have daily opportunities to play in the fresh air and take part in regular physical activities. They dance to music and enjoy active team games when indoors. They enjoy skating around the playground practising their skills and climbing on the fixed outdoor equipment which offers them appropriate challenge. This helps to promote their health and well-being. The provision meets the children's dietary needs because the staff are fully aware of all the children's individual needs and cater for these accordingly. The children enjoy healthy meals and are offered fruit on a daily basis. Mealtimes are a sociable occasion, when the children all sit together and interact in a friendly manner. The children learn about healthy eating from the staff, who talk to the children about healthy foods and have put an attractive display about making healthy choices at mealtimes in the foyer for parents' and children's information. This helps the children to recognise the importance of maintaining a balanced diet.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are safe and the available space is well organised to provide areas for children to eat, rest and play in relative comfort. The provision is made welcoming by staff greeting children and parents on arrival and by attractive displays including photographs of the children. The children are lively and arrive eager to play with their friends. They play with an appropriate range of good quality equipment. The equipment and play resources are appropriate for the children attending and help to create a stimulating environment that interests them.

Reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that hazards to children are minimised. For example, risk assessments are completed on a daily basis and hazardous substances are kept in a locked

cupboard. There are good systems in place to ensure only authorised people collect the children and staff follow effective procedures to ensure children's safety during the school collection. Children learn about 'stranger danger' and road safety during discussion about travelling from school to the provision. Children learn how to evacuate the premises safely because they regularly practise the fire drill.

The staff undertake training in child protection and the manager is knowledgeable in this area. There are clear written procedures to follow if there are concerns about a child's welfare. This ensures children are protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

There is a regular plan of activities for both the after school provision and the holiday scheme. Staff take responsibility for planning the activity for the area they are allocated, such as making masks in the art and craft area. There are core activities and equipment that are out on a daily basis such as the computer and the snooker table. Then, activities are added according to staff ideas and the children's interests. The staff are flexible in the planning of the routine, allowing the children the choice to participate in planned activities or devise their own activities. For example, children attending the holiday scheme wanted to make pizza, so the staff encouraged them to make a shopping list. They then went on an outing to the shops to buy the ingredients, they then made the pizzas and served them to all the children at tea time.

The children have access to the outdoor area for most of the session. The staff evaluate each activity as to whether it was popular or how it could be improved to ensure the children are getting the most out of their time at the provision. The children happily go to staff for support and the staff interact in a positive, supportive manner. They encourage the children to make decisions for themselves helping them to feel confident in their choices. They enjoy skating with their friends in the fresh air and climbing on the fixed equipment. The children enjoy spending time with their friends and participating in activities that they are enthusiastic about.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The provision actively promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. There is a wide range of equipment which celebrates diversity including, displays, posters, photographs and play resources. Each child's birthday is celebrated if appropriate and different cultural and religious events that occur throughout the year. For example, Diwali, Christmas and Chinese New year. This helps children to be positive about each other.

Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are welcomed into the provision. The staff identify and address all children's differing needs in consultation with the parents, providing for these accordingly. This is helped by the individual play plans which state children's targets and aims. The staff are pro active in ensuring the provision is accessible to all, regardless of ability, and gained an award in recognition of this.

Children behave well in response to the realistic expectations of the staff. They are encouraged to take responsibility, for instance in the homework and reading club. Older children are encouraged to listen to younger children read and they support each other completing homework. Children are helped to be caring when they 'buddy up' with a new child to help them settle. Staff interact in a positive, polite and supportive manner which means children follow their example. The staff take the children's comments seriously and try to come up with solutions, valuing children's opinion at committee meetings.

The staff build friendly and supportive relationships with the parents exchanging information on a daily basis. The parents are given useful information about the service offered and the provision's policies and procedures. Parents interviewed were very satisfied with the service offered. They particularly commented on how their children enjoyed attending and on the approachability of the staff.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff are deployed effectively to provide adequate supervision of the children at all times. They are suitably qualified and have been subject to appropriate checks ensuring children are protected. The manager is a dedicated and experienced practitioner who leads and supports her staff team well. Support staff are included to ensure ratios of staff to children are increased if additional support is needed. This ensures all children's needs are met. Parents are kept well informed.

The staff check that the regulatory documentation is in place and kept up-to-date. However, even though children are marked in and out their specific arrival and departure times are not recorded consistently on the attendance register. Nevertheless, this is a well organised provision that provides stimulating play resources that interest the children attending. The staff provide a flexible routine, allowing the children to make their own choice of activities, helping to create a child-led environment. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the setting keep a record of complaints made by parents which they can see on request. There is now a record of complaints made by parents kept at the provision for parents information. This promotes the partnership with parents and carers.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, Ofsted received one complaint relating to National Standard 6: Safety. This involved a child being lost on an outing. This included National Standard 12: Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers; regarding sharing information and National Standard 14: Documentation; regarding informing Ofsted of significant events. Ofsted wrote to the provider and asked that they investigate the concerns and report back the findings. From the information received and the action taken by the provider as a result of the concerns raised, Ofsted was

satisfied that the provider met the National Standards and remained qualified for registration at the time the investigation was closed.

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 the specific times of children's arrival and departure times are consistently included in the registration record.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk