



Explore Learning

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY334251
Inspection date	29 November 2006
Inspector	John Early
Setting Address	J Sainsbury Plc, 1 Merton High Street, LONDON, SW19 1DD
Telephone number	
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Registered person	Explore Learning Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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?

Explore Learning Centre opened in 2006. It operates from premises in Sainsbury's Supermarket in Colliers Wood in Merton. The club runs on a membership basis and children attend for a 75 minute session once or twice a week. They follow the computer based curriculum.

The centre opens seven days a week all year round. Weekdays during the school term time they are open from 15:00 until 20:00 and in the holidays from 10:00 until 18:00. The centre opens Saturdays from 10:00 until 18:00 and Sundays from 10:00 until 16:00.

The setting employs three full time staff. One centre Director and two assistant Directors to work with the children and up to six staff are available on a part time basis. All staff have child care experience. A maximum of 32 children under eight years may attend the setting at any one time. There are currently 280 children on roll. The setting currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene practice as staff encourage them to wash their hands after using the toilet; for example, by placing notices on the toilet wall and reminding children when this is needed.

Children benefit from the clear policy on sickness to reduce the spread of contagious illness. The premises are warm, clean and well maintained. They are set out to take account of children's health and safety, with planned spaces for the learning zones; for example, where the computers are well spaced and so children can move freely and safely.

Children's health is supported as staff hold current first aid qualifications. There is a first aid box on site and parents give prior consent for giving medication or for any emergencies.

A water dispenser with paper cups is made available to the children at all times and they help themselves when they are thirsty. This encourages children to think about their personal needs and helps prevent them from becoming dehydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a spacious well organised environment, where they have easy and safe access to a range of computers and play materials; which are all in very good condition, are age appropriate and suitable for their needs.

Good staff interaction helps develop children's awareness of safety within the setting. Children are aware of the rules, for example, when reminded by staff to be safe and considerate to each other.

Children learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely as they take part in regular fire drills and the fire fighting equipment in the rooms is checked regularly.

There are systems in place for the safe arrival and departure of children. For example, the door to the room is always staffed; children are supervised at all times inside the building; and arrival and departure times are recorded each day.

Children benefit from good procedures in place to protect their welfare. Staff are familiar with child protection procedures and are confident in describing these. The setting has a detailed policy to support them in this area to effectively safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the range of activities and games offered to them, which are suitable for their age and stage of development. This is mainly Maths, English and computer skills, with

other activities on offer in the Surf Club. The computer programmes are self correcting and the children know they have to complete each stage before going on to the next one. Children are encouraged to plan their own time in the setting and to complete their agreed activity. Children concentrate on the planned activities and respond to tutors encouragement to complete them.

Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities, such as art and craft work, drawing, and games. They independently choose from a range of play materials that are easily accessible, provide stimulation, and support their fun, play and learning.

Children are confident in the setting. They enjoy good relationships with staff and their peers and co-operate well when working in groups. They confidently approach staff for support whilst they are playing and staff respond with enthusiasm, care and kindness.

The whole place is buzzing with activity. Children are talking, using computers, playing games in the surf Club, smiling, laughing, chatting to one another or to the tutors, listening and learning. They appear very keen and enthusiastic about the centre and what they gain from it. There is a general warm and friendly atmosphere, where children are very settled, confident and happy.

The overall atmosphere is very inviting, challenging and fun.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about diversity by talking to one another, looking at photographs, posters and participating in projects. The setting welcomes children and staff from a range of ethnic backgrounds. Children receive a warm welcome and time is taken by staff to get to know children so that they feel valued.

Some staff have experience of working with children who have learning difficulties or disabilities; they are able to adapt activities to ensure all children are included.

The children are well behaved. There is a system in place for them to adhere to simple boundaries, which are known and respected by the children. Children are encouraged to be kind to each other. They are given praise for achievements, especially when helping completing goals; for example, when a child gets a certificate for an award.

Staff welcome parents and children warmly, spending time talking to parents about their child. This helps reassure the children being cared for that a bond of trust has been established. Parents are kept informed about activities at the setting and many of the policies and procedures are displayed for parents to see.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All staff are vetted and are educated to degree standard. However, the children's development is hindered by the lack of people with current child care qualifications. Staff regularly attend in-house training which is being accredited in order to meet the National Standards.

Children play in an environment that is well organised and they are grouped appropriately. All the children are supervised at the tables; for example, in small groups for work on computers or other games. They can also freely choose other activities as they require, such as the games and drawing activities in the Surf Club area.

The setting is well organised to provide a focus on children's English and mathematical skills. The premises are safe, secure and well equipped to support this. Staff appointment and induction procedures are in place.

Staff management systems include regular staff meetings, appraisals and regular evaluation of the setting as a whole, demonstrating effective procedures for reflection on practice and ensuring good care for children.

All the appropriate child care and staff documents are kept and safely stored.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not Applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- develop and have on site a plan to show how staff qualifications in child care are to be met.

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