



St Marys Hare Park School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY334674
Inspection date	16 November 2006
Inspector	Christine Eglinton
Setting Address	St. Marys Hare Park School, South Drive, ROMFORD, RM2 6HH
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Registered person	Romford YMCA
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St Mary's Hare Park out of school club is one of several day care provisions run by YMCA. It opened in 2006 and operates from 5 rooms within St Mary's Park School which is a Catholic independent school. It is situated within a residential area of Romford. A maximum of 30 children may attend the after school club at any one time. The after school club is open each weekday from 15:00 to 18:00 during term time only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. Only children attending St Mary's Park School may attend the after school club.

There are currently 10 children aged from four to eight years on roll. The out of school club employs two staff, one of the staff holds an appropriate early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a clean environment where they learn to follow good hygiene practices. For example, they wash their hands before eating their snacks, and staff encourage children to wash hands after using the toilet. Children's individual health and dietary needs are appropriately recorded, and staff implement effective procedures such as accident recording and medication, to maintain good health and consistency of care.

Children enjoy taking part in physical activities that offer them good opportunities to exercise. For instance, they have great fun playing ball games in the hall, and take part in running games and relay races. Other equipment, such as hoops, bikes, and skipping ropes, helps children to develop their physical skills.

Planned activities, such as decorating paper plates with pictures of healthy, and unhealthy, food items, help children to understand foods that are good for them. The daily snack selection contains a healthy food option such as fruit yoghurt, or fresh vegetable sticks. However, older children are unable to access drinks independently, which does not encourage them to think about their personal needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to play safely in areas of the premises which offer them sufficient space to play, and be comfortable during meals, and relax while looking at books. However, organisation of some activities, such as home work, is not being suitably organised to benefit all children. For instance, although staff try to ensure children are able to concentrate during homework periods, this sometimes results in other children having to restrict the noise that is normally associated with fun and enjoyable activities. Children's creative work is displayed which adds to the welcoming atmosphere.

Although children are confident and secure in the club's environment, they are not able to freely access the play resources. This restricts them from making important decisions during their play. Toys and resources are suitable for children's stage of development.

Staff use appropriate risk assessments to reduce potential hazards which enable children to play safely and securely. Children have practised the emergency evacuation procedure, which helps children learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely.

Staff are able to demonstrate that they are alert to signs and symptoms of child abuse that may cause concern. However, the lack of accessibility of local child protection procedures, and contact numbers, present a risk of children and families not receiving swift and necessary support.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at the club at the end of the school day, where they are able to play with their friends. They enjoy relaxing activities such as looking at books with staff, and then take part in energetic ball games. This enables children to benefit from a balanced range of activities.

Staff have developed positive relationships with the children, and spend time playing and talking to them. Consequently, children are confident and secure. Children have appropriate opportunities of working together in a group when they practise the Christmas play, which encourages good team work. Staff plan a variety of weekly activities. However, this sometimes results in children not being able to make suggestions and take the initiative in their play. Children concentrate well during planned activities such as sticking activities where they decorate their names with coloured paper. Staff display children's creative work within the hall which shows children adults value their work.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff have a positive attitude towards diversity and help children become aware of their own, and other, cultures through a range of resources, and planned activities. For example, children celebrate a variety of cultural festivals which help develop children's understanding of diversity. Staff encourage children to join in the activities provided, which ensure children are given equal opportunities to take a full and active part of the club.

Children enjoy playing together and they are learning important social skills such as sharing the resources, and taking turns in team games. Staff manage children's behaviour calmly and patiently, which encourages children to respond effectively to guidance. However, staff do not always use good explanation to help children understand why certain behaviour is not acceptable.

Parents are given sufficient information about the club through the parent pack and welcome letter. Newsletters via the school helps keep parents well informed about future events.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Appropriate staff deployment ensures children are adequately supervised during the session, and all children receive appropriate support from staff who enjoy their company. This helps children to feel secure and confident. The session is adequately balanced enabling children to take part in active and quiet activities. However, although staff are keeping relevant information on the children to ensure continuity of care, the provider is unable to demonstrate that they are keeping appropriate records for staff. Consequently, this means that Ofsted are unable to confirm that systems to protect children, and ensure the suitability of staff are appropriate or effective. Therefore the welfare of children is not fully protected.

Regulations have been breached. The provider is unable to locate the certificate of registration which means this is not being displayed. This does not enable parents to view the club's conditions of registration, so they are unable to ensure the setting is meeting the conditions of registration. Consequently, this does not enable all to work together to support children's well-being. Documentation required for the safe and effective management of the setting is inaccessible, and therefore is not being used to promote children's welfare. For example, the provider is not keeping evidence of staff's police clearances and first aid certificates. The provider is not ensuring staff are appropriately qualified to take charge in the absence of the manager. Consequently, the setting does not meet 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 the 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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