



Sutton Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY233294
Inspection date	12 March 2007
Inspector	Sue Boylan
Setting Address	Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 2SD
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Registered person	London Borough of Sutton Play Service
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Sutton Out of School Club opened in 1994 and operates from a large hall within the Robin Hood Youth Centre in the London borough of Sutton. A maximum of 30 children aged four to eight years may attend the club at any one time. It does also, accept children up to the age of 14 years. The Out of School Club is one of a number of projects run by the Sutton Play Service.

The provision runs an after-school club during term time that is open from 15:15 until 18:00. During holiday times the play scheme is open from 09:00 until 18:00. There is a small outside area.

The numbers of children on roll vary on a daily basis. The setting support children who have learning difficulties and who speak English as an additional language.

The Out of School Club employs up to 10 staff, with a maximum of between four and five staff working after school. Of these, three staff hold an appropriate early years qualifications and two are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy good opportunities to lead a healthy lifestyle. They walk back from school and enjoy physical exercise such as a game of skittles, football or skipping. Activities are planned so children can consider the importance of keeping healthy, for instance, designing a poster 'looking after yourself' and tasting different fruits. The food provided offers a balanced and nutritious menu, meal times are a social event where children love to sit with their friends to chat about their day at school. They help themselves to a drink which ensures children do not become dehydrated and are thinking about their personal needs.

There are appropriate procedures in place to encourage good hygiene practice. For example, children go to staff to get a squirt of liquid soap and use paper towel to dry their hands. They know why it is important to wash your hands before eating and after going to the toilet. Staff have a good understanding of food hygiene and children are protected from the risk of cross contamination.

There is a sufficient number of staff who are first aid trained. All accidents and injuries are recorded and the book is signed by parents, which protects children's health, however, not all entries are dated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious and welcoming environment where they can move around freely and independently. They enjoy coming to the setting and settle quickly when they get back from school, this contributes to children's sense of belonging. There is a varied range of age appropriate toys and resources that are in good condition and enable children to self select.

Children's safety is protected because staff are vigilant in their supervision and effective procedures ensure the security is good. For example, if anybody different is due and arrives to collect a child, a member of staff asks to see some identification before allowing the child to be taken. Children are learning to keep safe because there is a reward system for walking back from school. This means they have to see if they can keep the maximum number of five points awarded by the time they reach the setting. They lose points, for example, if they do not walk in the line or step in the road. Children are familiar with the emergency evacuation procedure as they practise the routine on a regular basis including the holidays.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff have a good understanding of child protection. They know who to contact if they have any concerns a child is being abused or neglected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic on arrival and confident within the familiar routine and surroundings. They enjoy the time to relax after school participating in activities according to their needs or interests. All children are given good opportunities to initiate their own ideas, for example, designing a 'no smoking poster' to display in the entrance hall. They cooperate together and willingly take turns when playing a game of large 'Connect 4'. Staff encourage children to listen to each other which contributes to positive self-esteem, for instance, telling the group what they did at the weekend.

Children interact well with staff who listen, respond to their needs, offer comfort and play with them when asked. They have good opportunities to use art and craft material and enjoy baking sessions when they make bread and chocolate crispies. There is a weekly theme which is adapted depending on the children attending and what they want to do.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well behaved and know what is expected of them. They have helped to write the 'club rules', for example, 'be nice to each other' and 'look after equipment'. The atmosphere is calm and children know to listen when a member of staff raises his/her arm. Children benefit from the consistent praise and encouragement which fosters positive well-being.

Staff have experience of working with children who have learning and/or physical disabilities. There is close liaison with parents and other professionals to ensure individual needs are met. A good range of planned activities and outings ensure children can experience the wider world and local community.

There is good partnership with parents. Staff are approachable and provide appropriate information about the provision and what the children have been involved in.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well supported within the structure of the routine and ratios; allowing for quiet and active play. Older and younger children benefit from the opportunity to play and eat together in different areas with their own age group. However, there are times when the provision is caring for children whose age does not meet the conditions of registration. Staff are appropriately vetted and an effective recruitment policy is in place. There is a comprehensive range of procedures which guide staff in the day-to-day care of the children. The required records are mostly maintained accurately, however, the register of staff and children's attendance does not consistently record the time of departure. Overall the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to develop an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff hold an appropriate early years qualification, ensure the record of accidents is signed by parents, improve the system to maintain an accurate record of staff's hours of attendance and promote good hygiene practice in relation to hand washing.

There is now at least the required number of staff qualified, good hygiene practice is encouraged when children wash their hands and some improvement has been made in relation to the record keeping.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 satisfactory. 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 conditions of registration are met at all times (ages of children attending)
- maintain the children and staff attendance consistently when recording the time of departure
- maintain the 'first aid' book accurately by recording the date of the accident.

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