

# Crofters Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	509705
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 April 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Martha Naa Ahimah Darkwah
<b>Setting Address</b>	The Croft Centre, 16 Windham Road, Richmond, TW9 2HP
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<b>Registered person</b>	London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Crofters Club is an after school club and holiday play scheme for children aged under 18 years who have a disability. It is based within Windham Nursery, a Centre of Excellence incorporating social services provision for children with a disability and the education department.

A maximum of 30 children from five to under eight years may attend the after school club at any one time. A maximum of nine children from four to under eight years may attend the holiday play scheme at any one time. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The provision for children under eight is open every Tuesday during term time from 15:30 until 18:00.

The children are collected from local schools and brought to the centre in a mini bus.

There are currently 30 children aged five to under eight years on roll. The club supports children with learning difficulties, disabilities and children who have English as an additional language.

The under eights club employs eight members of staff. Of these, four hold an appropriate early year's qualification. Additionally, a total number of 88 staff are employed and work with older children using the centre at different times.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's general health and well-being is fully assured by the clear and secure knowledge of first aid and emergency procedures. Children are protected from infection because staff members follow appropriate hygiene procedures. Staff members regularly receive and update training on good practice and health and safety issues.

Children are well cared for due to the efficient procedures in place for first aid, accidents and medication. These are correctly maintained and shared with parents. Records contain sufficient detail to enable staff to look after the individual needs of the children. For example, there is a very good system in place for staff to have easy access to a 'Medical and Administration' form which details information and consent for the safe administration of medicines. Children with complex medical needs are able to attend. They are cared for by staff members specially trained to administer necessary medication and care procedures. For example, the administration of rectal valium and epilepsy awareness and care.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise everyday and they are able to make good progress in their physical development. Children have the opportunity to engage in ball games and a variety of team games. Children understand the importance of taking regular exercise as a way to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Children are encouraged to develop independence and their self care skills. Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines. For example, they know to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating.

Children benefit from a healthy snack menu that is provided according to a child's individual dietary needs and requirements. They sit in small groups to enjoy vegetables and fruits in a relaxed and social atmosphere, which fosters their social skills and good manners.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children's confidence is routinely boosted in a caring and safe environment. Children are safe in the setting because there is a very good deployment of staff who are vigilant in closely supervising children when using different areas. Staff member's knowledgeable and caring attitude is demonstrated in the real care and attention they pay to disability etiquette and treating children with respect and as individuals in their own right.

Fire procedures are in place and children practise regular fire drills to safeguard their welfare in the event of an emergency. Fire fighting equipment is strategically located and regularly checked for it's effectiveness. There are suitable risk assessment procedures in place.

Children have access to a suitable range of activities, and good quality toys and equipment. These meet children's individual needs because they are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children are safeguarded as staff ensure the toys and equipment are checked on regular basis to reduce any hazards.

Children are safe because staff follow good procedures for their arrival, supervision and collection. However, the record does not detail the actual of time of arrival and departure for children.

Children are kept safe in the setting because staff have identified potential risks or dangers and follow efficient procedures. Clear and robust systems are in place for risk assessments in relation to outings and indoor and outdoor play, identifying potential hazards. These include who may be harmed and the risk levels associated with the identified hazards and what control measures are put in place to reduce the hazard.

The children's safety in regard to child protection is very secure. Staff members have a good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. Staff members have an awareness of the signs and procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are encouraged to be confident and self assured in the setting's positive and welcoming environment.

Warm relationships are very evident between staff and children. Children are well supported to continue to develop skills and abilities in a relaxed and caring manner. They benefit from a nurturing, supportive and caring environment which allows them to enjoy a number of activities. The daily routine ensures that children have a familiar and consistent environment, which enhances their feeling of security and belonging.

Children enjoy the club because staff follow a range of care plans effectively according to the children's individual needs. Children benefit from the positive interaction they mostly receive from staff during free-play activities. Children have access to an activity centre, a sensory room and garden which contributes to their all round development and enjoyment.

Children are having lots of fun while they sing a variety of action songs and explore good range of interesting activities which are suitable for their age, stage of development and geared to their individual interests. Older and younger children play very well together.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the continuity of care that is supported by the exchange of information between staff and parents. They show consideration for one another and happily share resources.

Equality for all is encouraged very well as children are helped to understand each other's needs and treat everyone with respect. They are helped to continue to develop positive self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and make choices and decisions within their daily routine. Children are very happy and co-operative. Their behaviour is good and children are able to share and play co-operatively together.

Children learn about the diverse world around them. They experience the value of their own culture through posters, books and by participating in topics about it. Children's sense of security is fostered by the systems in place to promote healthy partnerships with parents.

Children's individual needs are met through the procedures used to share and exchange information between parents and staff. Relationships with parents are friendly and professional. Parents receive useful information about the setting and staff members verbally exchange pertinent information with them on a daily basis.

Feedback from parents is consistently positive and they very much value the care and service they receive from the setting. Parents spoken to report very high levels of satisfaction in the care their children receive and the real care shown by the dedicated staff members. Parents are regularly asked for their views and suggestions. This is done through questionnaires, meetings and regular exchange and sharing of relevant information for the benefit of the children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and settled as the staff ratios are maintained. Staff members are effectively deployed to support children in their care, learning and play.

Very good systems in place to safeguard children's welfare work well in practice. This is because staff members are successful in implementing them and undergo a regular review involving parents, children and staff.

Children have strong relationships with staff and enjoy the interesting range of play opportunities that are planned and provided by staff. Children benefit from some useful aspects in the organisation of care, which helps them to develop an understanding of how to keep healthy and learn to manage their own behaviour.

All of the legally required documentation, which contributes to children's health, safety and wellbeing, is in place and is regularly reviewed. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection, the group was required to develop a number of policies. The recording systems relating to uncollected children, registration for children and staff, fire drills, safety, medication, sick children, equal opportunities, behaviour management and complaints. A comprehensive operational manual is in place with all relevant policies and procedures implemented by staff. Registration systems for staff reflect the actual time of arrival and departure. However, the children's register is not currently in sufficient detail.

The group also agreed to ensure safety in relation to outdoor fence, steps and gate, fire evacuation procedures and heavy toilet doors. Clear safety systems are in place for children's general welfare.

The group also agreed to ensure staff developed their awareness of diseases that are notifiable, and to have arrangements in place for deputising in the absence of the Person-in-Charge. Staff

members demonstrate awareness of notifiable diseases and a deputy manager has been appointed who takes charge in the absence of the manager.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since April 2004, 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):

- keep a record of children's time of arrival and departure within the record of attendance

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)