

Somerford Grove Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY316014
Inspection date	03 May 2007
Inspector	Jennifer Liverpool

Setting Address	Somerford Grove Community Project, Park Lane Close, London, N17 0HL
Telephone number	0208 808 0533
E-mail	
Registered person	Haringey Play Association
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?

Somerford Grove Adventure Playground opened in 2006 and operates an after school open access scheme. It is part of the Somerford Grove Community Project, an inclusive playground and community centre, built and run by the Haringey Play Association. It is located in the Tottenham area within the London borough of Haringey. The group is open Thursdays and Fridays from 15.00 to 18.30 and on Saturdays from 13.00 to 18.00 during term time. It also provides a holiday play scheme each week day during the school holidays from 13.00 to 18.00. All children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

A maximum of 16 children may attend at any one time. There are currently 50 children aged between five to seven years on roll. Children from eight to 15 years also attends. They all attend for various sessions. In addition to this, a maximum of 24 children may attend the open access holiday play scheme.

The group employs four members of staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification. Additional staff are employed when the holiday play scheme is in operation.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children work and play in an environment that is reasonably kept clean and tidy. Consideration is given to making sure that children eat on tables that are not used for arts and crafts. Children are provided with appropriate facilities for washing and drying their hands. This helps to reduce the spread of cross infection. There are suitable procedures in place for dealing with sick children and those who are infectious are not allowed to attend. Staff know and understand how to provide appropriate care for children who sustain minor injuries because they hold valid first aid certificates. Although records for medication are available and accident records are maintained, staff have not yet considered how parents are kept informed of their children's accidents, especially if children are taken home by older siblings or leave unaccompanied.

Children who attend the open access play scheme are not routinely provided with snacks. However, bread is available and children know that they can help themselves. Some children bring in their own snacks and appropriate storage facilities are available to ensure food do not spoil. Children have access to fresh drinking water and help themselves when they need to. This helps to contribute to their health. Children's physical skills are well promoted as they have access to a wide range of outdoor play equipment that is varied and challenging. They use the equipment with confidence. Children are getting lots of fresh air and exercise, all of which contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children work and play in a secure environment that is surrounded by fencing and exit routes are closely monitored by staff. Children move around freely and access the outdoor play area as and when they want to. The setting operates an open access scheme and although children are able to leave unaccompanied, staff have systems in place for managing entry on to the premises. Overall, the premises are appropriately maintained. Basic risk assessments are carried out at the beginning of every session to reduce the potential hazards to children. In spite of the fire safety equipment being well maintained and fire safety procedures being on display, staff have yet to conduct fire drill practises. This means that children are not familiar with the procedures for evacuating the premises safely in the event of a fire or emergency.

Children have access to an adequate range and variety of toys that are in good condition and appropriate for their age. Furniture and equipment are safe for children to use. The provision for outdoor play provides sufficient challenge and is a popular feature of the setting. Staff have a sound knowledge of child protection issues. They know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child in their care. This safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy coming to the setting, in particular the wide range of large scale outdoor play equipment and apparatus that offers challenge as well as vigorous exercise. This equipment gives children plenty of opportunity to practise and develop their physical skills. Although children can come and go as they please, many of them stay for the full duration of the time

that the setting is open. The interaction between staff and children is friendly and supportive. Children of all ages enjoy each others company.

Children benefit from working and playing with a range of resources that appeal to their interests. For example, computer games, table tennis and other games such as connect and jenga. Children concentrate and use their imagination well when drawing and painting pictures. The availability of construction sets such as lego bricks support children in developing their creative skills in design making. Dressing up clothes, child size kitchen units and small world equipment provides appropriate opportunities for children to participate in a range of role-play activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children come from a variety of backgrounds. Staff ensure all children are treated as individual and feel valued. All children are encouraged to participate in the range of activities that are on offer. Staff are mindful of children's different abilities and all children are encouraged to participate in the range of activities that are on offer. Some activities support children to respect differences. For example, children are given opportunities to taste food from different cultures. There is an attractive display of children's paintings of their self portraits. This helps children to admire their own work and those of others; all of which contributes to developing their self esteem. The use of different coloured skin tone paints help children to become aware of their similarities and differences and be able to interpret how they look.

Children's behaviour is generally good. Staff interact appropriately to resolve any minor disputes and children respond well. Staff make sure that children are aware of the basic ground rules through reminders and putting the policy on display. Staff require that parents give their written permission for children under 8 years to attend the open access scheme and provide relevant details of their child so that staff can meet their needs. Apart from the consent for urgent medical treatment all other relevant consents have been obtained. Staff are aware of the procedures for dealing with complaints. Although parents are informed of the internal procedures for complaints they have not been informed of who to complain to if they are still unsatisfied.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are confident in their environment. This is because they have the freedom to use the indoor and outdoor space for play opportunities. Children are secure on the premises as there is fencing surrounding the perimeter of the building and staff manage access onto the premises. Children benefit from the positive interaction they receive from staff and the friendly relationships they develop with each other. Children's health and safety is generally promoted. However, some consideration needs to be given to keeping parents fully informed and improving fire safety procedures. Most of the required documentation for the safe management and welfare of children are in place. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the children for whom it provides.

Staff have an appropriate understanding of the National Standards and their responsibilities to meet these. They are aware of the need to retain records over a period of time, though less clear about the procedures for notification of significant events. Children's information is securely stored and confidentiality is strongly regarded. The manager is fully aware of the

vetting procedures for ensuring that staff are suitable to work with children; however some staff records including suitability checks are not available for inspection because these records are not kept where they can be easily accessible. Although many of the staff have a number of years of childcare experiences less than half of them hold appropriate childcare qualifications. In spite of this, the management actively encourages staff training and development to ensure that they keep up to date with child care practises.

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 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):

- put systems in place to ensure that parents are kept informed of their children's accidents
- take steps to conduct fire drill practises and keep a record of this
- ensure parents are informed of the procedures to follow if they wish to make a complaint; obtain parent's consent for urgent medical treatment or advice
- further develop knowledge and understanding of the regulations for notifying Ofsted of significant events including serious injuries and making sure staff records are available for inspection
- ensure that at least half the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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