

Dairy Meadow Primary School Holiday Play Scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY290354
Inspection date	12 April 2007
Inspector	Jane Nelson
Setting Address	Dairy Meadow School, Swift Road, Southall, Middlesex, UB2 4RP
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Registered person	London Borough of Ealing
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?

The Dairy Meadow Primary School Holiday Play Scheme was registered in 2004. It operates from Dairy Meadow Primary School premises, on the Havelock Estate in Southall, and is managed by the London borough of Ealing Play Services. The play scheme has use of the school hall, a kitchen and the school's enclosed playground. The play scheme serves the local area and is close to all main transport services, parks and local amenities.

The play scheme is registered to provide 30 places for children aged five to under eight years, children aged eight to 11 years also attend the scheme. There are currently three children aged under eight years on roll. The play scheme operates Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 17:45 during the Easter and Summer school holidays.

Five full time staff work with the children. The manager and the staff team have appropriate play work or early years childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through, the play scheme's daily routine, for example, they are reminded to use the toilet before outings, and to wash their hands prior to meal times. Systems are in place to protect children's health, two members of staff have current first aid qualifications, first aid boxes are easily accessible and parents consent for emergency medical treatment is obtained. The risk of infection to children is minimised by the play scheme's policy of not caring for children who are sick or have an infectious illness.

Healthy eating is encouraged and fresh fruit is usually provided, as part of the daily morning and afternoon snack. Parents provide children's packed lunch which is stored appropriately. Snack time is sociable and relaxed, children sit with staff around a table and enjoy their snack of toast and jam with a drink. Staff and children chat about the morning's activities and discuss the activity or game they will do next.

Children enjoy daily physical play and exercise which encourages their good health. They have access to the school playground, where they play ball games. Children and staff walk to local parks, where children can use play equipment. They also have space to move around and play games in the school hall.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure premises, where they are well supervised by staff. The high staff to child ratio and good deployment of staff, results in children being very well supervised, which helps to ensure their safety.

Children's understanding of their own safety is encouraged, by staff giving clear explanations and reminding children to be careful during their play, when using equipment and during activities. For example, children are reminded to be careful when blowing bubbles, and the consequence of liquid landing on the floor could result in someone slipping over. Discussion takes place before an outing, which reinforces children's awareness of their own safety. Staff talk to children about where they are going, how they will get there, and that certain areas may be busy, so children must make sure to stay with their allocated member of staff. Children wear sticky labels with the play scheme details and contact number on, which helps to minimise the risk of them being lost.

Space, furniture and equipment is used and organised appropriately, enabling children to move around and play safely. For example, children play at tables and use some equipment, such as a dart game, on the floor and wall, safely. Play materials, equipment and furniture are safe and in good condition. Risk assessments and good deployment of staff, help to ensure children are well supervised during out door play.

Clear fire instructions are displayed and fire drills held regularly. A planned visit to the local fire station as part of the play scheme programme, provides an interesting experience for children and reinforces their understanding of fire safety.

Children's welfare is protected by comprehensive child protection policies and guidance. Staff have a clear awareness and understanding of their responsibilities if they have concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

A good range of interesting and well planned, activities and experiences are provided for children, which encourage their interest and involvement and promote interaction with their peers. Children enjoy their time at the play scheme, they are happy, interested in activities and socialise well with each other and staff. They spend time concentrating on creative activities, and take pride in decorating face masks and making jewellery. They recall making bracelets during a previous play scheme, and share their knowledge with each other and staff, by showing how to thread beads in a certain way.

Children are able to make choices about what to do, from a selection of creative activities, and board games set out on tables. They participate in deciding what to do, for example a vote is taken to decide between a game of bingo and outside play. The majority vote is for a game of bingo, and children really enjoy the game all concentrating and noticing who is waiting for which numbers. They take delight in the prizes awarded.

Children benefit from good interaction with staff, who are friendly, encourage discussion and support children well in their activities and play. Staff enjoy their work and want the children to have fun and participate during their time at play scheme. Staff sit with children, joining in their play, encouraging conversation, making suggestions and offering help when needed.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children behave well, they enjoy themselves, and are busy and interested in activities, which results in a calm and constructive atmosphere. Ground rules, devised by children and staff, are displayed, encouraging respect, listening and being kind to each other. Staff are good role models, they give clear explanations and speak to each other and children politely and respectfully, encouraging children to do the same.

Children are encouraged to feel part of the group, their interests, achievements and opinions are valued, which promotes their self esteem. For example, they participate in decision making about play and activities, and their views are sought through a children's questionnaire. Their creative work is admired and displayed on a table. The creative materials and resources children use, reflect aspects of diversity, which reinforces positive self image and children's understanding of the world they live in.

Information is obtained from parents prior to their child starting at play scheme and ongoing information shared with parents, verbally, on a daily basis. Information about outings and the end of play scheme party is displayed for parents on a notice board. The play scheme's policies and procedures are available for parents to read and refer to. Parents views are sought through questionnaires and verbal feedback.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The play scheme is managed by the London borough of Ealing Play Services, who recruit and appoint a manager and staff for each play scheme. The play scheme is well resourced, planned and managed, providing a good range of interesting activities, outings and play materials to meet children's needs and provide a welcoming, friendly and caring environment.

Staff attend induction training prior to each play scheme, helping to ensure they are clear about their roles and responsibilities. They enjoy their work, and take pride in the children enjoying the play scheme. Detailed policies and procedures are in place, which provide clear information and guidance for staff, and information for parents. Most of the required documentation is in place with the exception of staff details being kept on the premises and all children's times of attendance being recorded consistently.

At the time of the inspection the provider was in breach of the conditions of their registration, however, the impact on the children was negligible, and the provider is now fully aware of their responsibilities. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 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 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):

- make sure staff's full details are kept on premises during play scheme
- make sure times of attendance for all children are recorded consistently.

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