

Y Active

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	116360
Inspection date	10 April 2007
Inspector	Daphne Prescott
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Registered person	Central YMCA
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?

Y Active Holiday Playscheme is run by Central YMCA. It opened in 1996 and operates from four rooms in a purpose built gym in London's West End in the London borough of Camden. It provides sport, fitness and play opportunities for children aged between five and 14 years during school holidays.

A maximum of 32 children may attend the holiday playscheme at any one time. The holiday playscheme is open each weekday from 09:30 to 16:00. With prior arrangement, working parents may book a place for the extended day service which operates from 08:30 to 17:30 for school holidays.

There are currently 200 children aged from five to under eight years on roll. Children come from the local and wider community and they are club members.

The playscheme employs 10 staff, five of the staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications and two staff are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as the setting is maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. They are learning the importance of personal hygiene through daily routines and staff making gentle reminders at appropriate times. For example, children are reminded to wash their hands before they eat their snack. Appropriate treatment is administered in the event of an accident as most staff hold a current first aid certificate and have the National Pool Lifeguard qualifications. Policies and procedures are in place for managing accidents and details are recorded. Parents are informed of any accidents. However, parent signatures are not obtained to acknowledge the entry in the accident book for the wellbeing of children. This is a breach of regulation and could compromise children's welfare. Staff discuss with parents arrangements with regard to their child's medication. However, there is no appropriate system in place to gain parents' written consent and record that medication has been administered and this could compromise children's safety.

The playscheme promotes healthy eating and children are able to buy healthy snacks from the setting. This includes fair trade foods such as fruit bars and juice which the children particularly enjoy. Throughout the morning as children take part in organised structured activities the manager and staff promote snack time as a time where children can relax. Children eat their snack and move around the room chatting to their friends about their morning and discuss what activities they are going to do next. As a result they enjoy their snack time as a social event, which helps to develop their social skills. Children are able to independently access drinking water at all times as drinking fountains are situated at different areas around the setting so that they are not thirsty.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities which contribute to their good health. They are developing a very positive attitude towards exercise which is enjoyed throughout the day. Staff ensure that the activities are fun for children and as a result children enjoy taking part in physical exercise. They enjoy playing football, playing on the bouncy castle and swimming. Children enjoy daily outings to different places of interest. For example, trips to Holland Park and Kensington Gardens where they have plenty of fresh air and exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy at the playscheme; they show a strong sense of belonging as they greet each other and the staff with great excitement. Children have access to a selection of play equipment and the amount of play equipment is sufficient to offer children variety throughout the day. Staff check the equipment regularly to ensure they remain safe for children.

The safety of children is important to the staff and any potential dangers are identified and quickly reduced. For example, staff ensure that children are well supervised as they move from one activity to another within the building, as some areas are also used by members of the public who are club members. High priority is given to making sure children will be safe in an emergency. The emergency escape plan is practised regularly. This ensures that all children are familiar with the evacuation procedure, should an emergency arise. Security of the premises is good, which also helps to protect children from possible harm. All children have a membership card and they have to swipe in as they go through the turnstiles in the entrance area. The

manager demonstrates the procedures to follow to ensure that the children remain safe on outings. However, there is no outings policy, which includes the operational procedures for the safe conduct of any outings provided and this could comprise children's safety.

Children's wellbeing is protected because staff have a sound knowledge of child protection matters. The signs and symptoms of abuse are recognised by staff and the procedure to follow for reporting concerns is understood.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the busy welcoming environment. They benefit from the close relationship they have with staff. The interaction is warm and friendly. Staff laugh and have fun with the children as well as giving support and encouragement when needed. The children are confident to approach them and express their needs and ideas. Consequently, children are confident and self-assured.

Children have good opportunities to engage in organised activities. They are having a lovely time as they move around from one activity to another. They enjoy a range of physical activities. As a result children's physical capabilities are promoted effectively. For example, they enjoy active games on the bouncy castle. They have good opportunities to learn how to swim or develop further their swimming skills, as the children have access to the centre's swimming pool. Children have a great time splashing around, jumping in and out of the pool and playing with the floating equipment provided.

Children's imaginations are developing well, because the staff provide regular opportunities to develop their imaginative thinking through a variety of art and drama activities. They enjoy painting and drawing pictures about what they do in the spring time. They listen with great interest as staff talk to the children and ask questions. For example, staff ask the children who knows the four seasons and can you name them. They talk about why they like winter and about playing in the snow and when the weather is hot in the summer, which helps encourage their knowledge of the natural world. They talk about past events and the number of eggs they find in the Easter egg hunt. They are motivated in their learning as the staff praise the children. For example, staff gave a child good praise when they mixed paints really well to make a beautiful colourful rainbow. As a result, children are happy and interested in their activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The playscheme is welcoming to children, where they have good opportunities to socialise with others in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Children enjoy mutually respectful relationships with staff and each other. Younger and older children get along well together and enjoy each other's company. Staff are aware of ensuring younger children are able to participate in all activities. They are given reassurance and support when needed, thus ensuring that they feel happy and settled. Staff show respect to the children and this positively influences children's behaviour. Appropriate and positive strategies are used to manage any behavioural difficulties that may arise. Consequently, children behave well, they understand the boundaries that are set and know what is expected of them. They are developing good self confidence and enjoy positive relationships with the staff.

Children learn about the world in which we live through different activities. They are encouraged to participate in all the activities provided. Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are welcome in the setting and staff have a positive attitude towards this area of childcare. The manager has sound knowledge and understanding of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and is aware of their responsibilities as a service provider.

Parents are greeted warmly by staff and have the opportunity to share any relevant information with them on a daily basis to ensure the needs of their children are met. Information about each child is gained through parents completing a registration form with all appropriate details. This helps to ensure that children receive continuity of care. Some information about the setting is available for parents to ensure that they are aware of the policies and procedures in place. However, the setting has not yet implemented a complaints log, recording any complaints that are made in relation to the National Standards for children's safety and wellbeing.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable, confident and at ease in the relaxed atmosphere. They are happy and motivated as they take part in organised activities. They profit from a staff team that works well together to deliver a fun experience for them. Staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They support the children's play and ensure their safety. The manager supports staff through daily communication and regular meetings.

Most of the required documentation is in place to support children's health, safety and wellbeing. However, a record of children's daily hours of attendance is not maintained, for children's safety and wellbeing. Recruitment and vetting procedures are in place, thus ensuring that children are protected and cared for by suitable staff. 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 agreed to ensure that parents are informed of the process for making a complaint and ensure written child protection procedures include the role of Ofsted.

The manager has in place information for parents to ensure that they are made aware of how to make a complaint and has included in the child protection procedures the role of Ofsted for children's safety and wellbeing.

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 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):

- devise a consent and medication record form
- ensure parents signatures are obtained against entries in the accident book
- devise a written outings policy
- provide and maintain a complaints log
- ensure records show children's daily hours 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