

Westfield Middle School Summer Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY340340
Inspection date	03 August 2007
Inspector	Andrea Ewer
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Registered person	Bedford Borough Council
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Westfield Middle School Summer Playscheme is run by Bedford Borough Council. It operates from the dinning room and large hall rooms within the school. All children share access to a secure enclosed outside play area.

A maximum of 40 children from five to eight years may attend the playscheme at any one time. There are currently 17 children under eight years on roll. The playscheme is open five days a week for five weeks of the summer holidays, between the hours of 10.00 and 12.00 and 14.00 until 16.00.

Children attending live locally and in the surrounding area. The playscheme is able to support children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The playscheme employs five staff. Of these, two hold an appropriate early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's good health is not promoted well enough. Although records of any accidents are kept, parents are not asked to sign to acknowledge they have been informed of the accident. This potentially compromises children's welfare and good health. Other records that promote children's good health are maintained. Written consent is obtained to administer medication, seek emergency medical treatment or advice, apply sun cream and information is obtained about children's medical and dietary needs.

Children receive appropriate care in the event of minor accidents or illness because all staff have attended basic first aid training and sufficient staff hold a relevant first aid qualification. Furthermore, the first aid kit is readily accessible and its contents are replenished as and when required.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their physical skills. They regularly use the outdoor play area to join team games and sports activities which contribute very well to their good health and overall fitness. Children become confident in their own abilities as they shoot the ball into the net while playing basketball, they develop improved co-ordination and control of their bodies during games such as rounders and cricket.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Generally children play safely in the well-organised environment that provides ample space for them to participate comfortably in a range of suitable activities. They choose whether to play indoors or outdoors during the sessions and staff ensure children are supervised at all times.

Overall effective measures are in place to minimise hazards and prevent accidents. The premises are generally secure and staff make sure children do not leave the premises unsupervised and that they leave with the correct person at the end of each session. Staff are not vigilant enough about unknown visitors entering the premises. All staff, however, use walkie-talkies which allows them to remain in contact in the event of an emergency and clear emergency evacuation procedures are in place.

Children are satisfactorily protected from harm or neglect. Staff understand the signs and symptoms of child abuse and understand the correct procedure to be followed should they be concerned a child in their care is being harmed. Playscheme staff have up-to-date documentation, with relevant contact details readily accessible should they have concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at the playscheme where they enjoy a relaxed environment during school holidays. They share warm, caring relationships with staff who respond with interest to what children do and say which helps them to feel valued. Although the range of activities is limited, children enthusiastically paint, make collages, draw and colour in pictures which allows them to express themselves creatively. At times children enjoy age appropriate activities that

develops their emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities because they are grouped according to their age. Children actively join team games where they let off steam and develop their confidence to enjoy moving with control. For example, children aim the ball carefully as they bowl during cricket and develop increased control of their bodies as they run between the posts during rounders. Children look forward to talent shows and sports tournaments where they show off their skills and compete against other groups.

At times children enjoy special activities where they jump energetically on the bouncy castle, use their imagination during drama games and face painting, and learn to co-operate with each other as they play parachute games. This ensures the time spent in the playscheme is fun and enjoyable for most children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by consistent adults who know them well. They develop friendships with each other and look forward to spending time with their friends at the playscheme. Children have access to all activities which are at times adapted to enable younger children to be fully included. For example, during sports day younger children play bucket ball rather than basket ball which means that they can participate at their own level. Children are well behaved. They actively participate in the activities provided and enjoy the company of staff who interact positively with them. Children learn about rules and turn taking as they play team games. They understand what is expected of them and respond to the positive strategies for managing their behaviour. Staff regularly remind children to look after the equipment, respect each other and have fun.

Although some arrangements are in place to meet children's individual needs, not enough attention is given to how the additional needs are met for children who have special needs. Children benefit from the generally effective partnership with parents. Staff share information about children daily, and written consent is obtained from parents where required. This enables appropriate care to be given.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Overall, the needs of the range of children who attend are not met. Many records, policies and procedures required for the safe and efficient management of the club are not held on the premises and accident records are not signed by parents. This potentially compromises children's well-being.

Children are cared for by staff who have undergone relevant checks that ensure they are suitable to have regular contact with children and are suitably qualified and/or experienced. Induction procedures, including training in child protection, behaviour management and first aid, ensures staff are fully informed about what is expected of them and enables them to promote children's welfare. Children are generally well supervised by sufficient staff who are deployed effectively which keeps them safe.

Children's play and development needs are met because the arrangement of space, resources and routines meets their needs for active and quiet play.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure unknown visitors are unable to enter the premises unsupervised
- ensure accident records are signed by parents
- ensure that all records relating to day care are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times including details of all staff.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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