

Gosforth Park OSC Ltd

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 319186
Inspection date 13 June 2007
Inspector Janet Fairhurst

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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?

Gosforth Park Out of School Limited is a privately owned club and has been registered since 1998. It operates in a hall and classroom within Gosforth Park First School, offering places to children attending the school and also three nearby schools. They are registered to care for a maximum of 56 children at any one time. The out of school provision is open before and after school and during school holidays. The sessions run from 08.00 to 09.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00 term time and from 08.00 to 18.00 holiday time.

There are currently 100 children on roll.

There are 11 members of staff employed to work with the children. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualification and one is working towards a qualification. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The club has effective policies and procedures in place to ensure children are protected from the spread of infection, for example, a sick children's policy and incubation periods that are shared and agreed by parents. Staff have a good understanding, and are well informed about children's individual health requirements, and some staff hold up to date first aid certificates. This means staff can give appropriate care if children have accidents. Children develop their understanding of personal hygiene practices as they follow sound hand washing routines and are provided with appropriate resources, for example, soap and paper towels. Therefore, the risk of cross infection is minimised.

Children are provided with a selection of well-presented healthy snacks, for example, fruit, a selection of sandwiches and cheese and crackers. The staff take time preparing the food ensuring it is well-presented and appealing to the children. Drinks, including water and squash, are immediately available to the children who can help themselves, helping them to develop independence.

Children have fun playing in the school yard, where they are able to participate in a range of games and activities, for example, football, races, skipping and rounders. These activities help children to develop coordination, stamina and fitness and enhance children's sense of adventure as they develop new skills and experiences.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a bright, welcoming environment, which is well maintained and secure. Effective risk assessments are undertaken and all potential hazards are identified and minimised. As a result, children are able to play safely and independently. The staff are vigilant and offer effective supervision as children play. Children are beginning to learn how to keep themselves safe as emergency evacuation procedures are practised regularly, ensuring that they know and understand what to do in the event of a fire.

Appropriate security is maintained, however, a record of visitors is not consistently maintained. Children are closely supervised by staff. They show a growing understanding of how to protect themselves and are aware of the club's rules. For example, they know they must not answer the door or enter the food preparation area. Staff check the premises and equipment to be used before children arrive and continually monitor this throughout the session. This helps to ensure the continued suitability of the premises and resources, so as to protect children from harm.

Children benefit from a range of suitable equipment that is clean and well maintained, which minimises risk to the children. Resources meet the needs of children of different ages and at different stages of development. Play materials are effectively organised and easily accessible to the children, to enhance their learning and promote choice and independence. Children make independent choices about what they do, which they enjoy, as it keeps them interested and motivated.

Children are sufficiently protected by staff who are aware of their roles and responsibilities to protect the children in their care. However, there are no procedures in place in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children and staff have warm relationships, as they enjoy each others' company doing art work and puzzles. The club is relaxed and children are confident and comfortable, as they move about choosing activities. Children enjoy the freedom to explore the environment, and use their creativity in outside play and during art activities. Children are encouraged to express themselves through their art work, which is recognised and praised by their parents, staff and peers. This supports children's self-esteem and confidence. The children take their time in expressing themselves with creative materials and enthusiastically create designs with beads. They are proud of their work and achievements as they show them to staff and visitors.

The staff provide a good balance of adult-led activities and free play. They allow children the space and freedom to make choices. As a result, the children initiate much of the play, as they independently help themselves to games and resources.

Children have great fun at the club. They arrive happy and confident and quickly settle into the routine. Staff laugh and have fun with them as well as giving support and encouragement, consequently, children are confident to approach them and express their needs. Children spend a great deal of effort creating 'dens' with lengths of material and become absorbed when working together with their peers painting pictures and watching television.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The range of resources, which reflect diversity, celebrations of different festivals and activities provided promote children's understanding of the world around them. Staff create an environment so that all children feel valued and are beginning to learn to respect others. As a result, children are accepting of difference and relate purposefully to one another. Staff divide their attention fairly and treat the children with equal concern. This establishes a sense of security and trusting relationships are formed.

The staff are good role models. They are kind and approachable and they follow the procedures for managing behaviour to help children to be well behaved and cooperative. Staff use appropriate strategies to manage children's behaviour and regularly reinforce rules. Therefore, the children know what is expected of them and play well within the clear boundaries set. They build children's self-esteem with appropriate praise and encouragement and children learn to share and to take turns. Children enjoy playing together and they are well occupied with a range of suitable activities.

Parents provide information about their children so that staff can care for them according to their individual needs. Staff talk to the parents each day when they collect their children in order to share information and discuss any issues. There are strong links with the school and teachers and parents are invited to visit at any time as an open-door policy is in operation. The children feel reassured and settled as their parents are made to feel welcomed and staff establish friendly relationships with them.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Appropriate policies and procedures are in place and shared with parents, which promotes children's welfare by contributing to the continuity of their care. Most of the records and documentation required by the regulator are in place and the majority are maintained to a good standard.

Children are cared for in a supportive environment. The staff work well together as a team as they share responsibility for the care of the children and the organisation of the group. They ensure that children have access to a range of play materials and that their leisure time is enjoyable. This promotes children's learning and ensures that they enjoy their time at the setting. The surroundings allow the children to move freely and to make choices and decisions. As a consequence, the children are relaxed and happy, they are confident to initiate their own play and show good levels of independence.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group was asked to improve accidents records to ensure confidentiality is maintained. The group now record all accidents on individual record sheets which contains all relevant information and are countersigned by the parent.

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 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):

- improve safety by ensuring that a record of all visitors is maintained
- devise and implement a policy that reflects the procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.

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