

Garston Adventure Playground p.l.c

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY234801 |
| Inspection date | 11 December 2007 |
| Inspector | Michele Anne Villiers |
| Setting Address | Bowden Road, Liverpool, L19 1QP |
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| Registered person | Garston 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?

Garston Adventure Playground (GAP) was registered in 2003 and is a registered charity run by a committee. It operates from six rooms in an open access building with a large adventure play area. It is situated in the Garston area of south Liverpool. A maximum of 80 children may attend the provision at any one time. The club opens six days a week all year round. Sessions are from 16.00 to 19.00 Tuesday to Friday, and 11.00 to 16.00 on Saturdays during term time; and 11.00 to 18.00 Monday to Friday, and 11.00 to 16.00 on Saturdays during school holidays.

There are currently 469 children on roll. The organisation supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs six members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff follow suitable health procedures in order to help protect children from cross infection. They are trained in first aid in order to deal with minor injuries, and all accidents are clearly recorded. Children learn about the importance of personal hygiene through routines such as hand washing after using the toilet. There is a sickness and exclusion policy for staff to follow, which includes information about infectious diseases and their incubation periods.

Children learn about healthy and nutritional food. During the summer months they grow vegetables outside, such as tomatoes and lettuce. One day a week staff cook a hot nutritional meal using fresh ingredients. On other days children provide their own food, and staff advise on healthy options. Fresh drinking water is available at all times, and juice is also offered.

Physical activity is very much encouraged, helping the children's health, growth and development. They have access to a large outside adventure play area for robust exercise. They play on a variety of challenging apparatus, such as swings, climbing frames, rope ladders, tunnels and seesaws. Staff also organise team games, such as football and rounders.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff closely monitor all visitors to help protect children from unknown persons entering the premises. The main entrance is always open for children to freely access the provision, but surveillance cameras and flood lit areas outside afford some security. Most safety measures are in place, however the radiator in the sensory room gets very hot and is accessible to children.

Staff organise themselves efficiently to take lead responsibility for specific activities, providing children with good supervision which contributes to their safety. Children learn about safety as staff remind them to be careful during play, and they regularly practise the fire evacuation procedure.

Children are further safeguarded as the staff have a good awareness of child protection issues. They follow written guidance, should they have concerns about a child, and some staff have completed training on safeguarding children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children eagerly enter the provision and happily settle to activities. Staff plan and provide a wide range of interesting play opportunities and make good use of external staff for art and craft, and outdoor physical activity. Children use their imagination well to create a variety of interesting and colourful collage and craft objects. For example, they make shadow puppets having created their own light box. Children excitedly cut out shapes to decorate the Christmas tree, and use a wide range of textured materials to create their own artwork. Staff use supporting materials, such as books, posters and postcards, to help children learn about different artists and their style of painting. Children express their own ideas and interpretations to create an art gallery.

In the sensory room children explore sound and visual effects, operating the music box and watching the different coloured patterns on the wall. Children freely move around to different rooms where they can play on the computers, read books, build with construction material or play board games. During the summer months children enjoy outings to various places of interest. Children form close relationships with staff and confidently interact with each other. They put forward their own ideas for activities and the environment is child-centred. Staff support the children well, engaging in their interests, and playing games with them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a good sense of belonging and are actively encouraged to contribute to the planning of play opportunities. They learn about their culture and the culture of others through the celebration of festivals, and accessing some multi-cultural resources. However, there are limited toys and resources reflecting positive images of race, culture and gender. Staff work closely with children who have physical disabilities and learning difficulties. The provision is very proactive in ensuring all children are integrated, and the children's needs are met.

Staff use appropriate strategies to manage the children's behaviour. There is a positive atmosphere where children play well alongside each other. Adults foster the children's self-esteem and reinforce their good behaviour through praise, support and encouragement.

Parents are welcomed into the club at any time. Written information is displayed in the entrance, and regular newsletters keep parents up-to-date on current issues and activities. Parental involvement is welcomed for fundraising events, such as Bingo Night, and the Christmas party. Parent contracts and consent forms are in place. However, parental consent for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment has not been obtained.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

There is a suitable recruitment procedure and supervisory staff are qualified, helping to protect children and promote their welfare. New staff receive induction training, and regular staff meetings help to identify any training needs. Staff are encouraged to attend relevant training and courses, and they keep their first aid certificates up to date.

There are many written policies and procedures for the staff to follow. Documentation and children's information are securely stored for confidentiality. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the provision: update policies and procedures relating to children's sickness, accidents, and attendance register; ensure sufficient staff are available to care for the number of children attending; make safe fire safety equipment; promote healthy eating, and ensure parents are well informed about the open access provision. All policies and procedures have been updated in accordance with legislation, helping to protect children and keep them safe. Sufficient staffing ratios are maintained. Unsafe fire equipment has been removed from the premises. Any meals provided for the children are healthy and nutritious, and staff use focused activities to promote the children's awareness of nutritional

food. Written information is given to parents clearly explaining that children may leave the site whenever they wish because it is an open access club.

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):

- make safe or inaccessible to children hot radiators
- increase toys and resources that reflect positive images of race, culture, and gender
- obtain parent consent for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment.

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