

# Seven Mills HPS

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	119615
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Tom Radcliffe
<b>Setting Address</b>	School House, Malabar Street, London, E14 8LY
<b>Telephone number</b>	0207 987 2350
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<b>Registered person</b>	London Borough of Tower Hamlets
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Seven Mills Holiday Play Scheme is an Out of School provision run by the London borough of Tower Hamlets. It opened in 2001 and operates from several classrooms, the dining hall, the main assembly hall and the entire play ground of Seven Mills Primary School in the London borough of Tower Hamlets. A maximum of 90 children under the age of eight years may attend the provision at any one time. Seven Mills Holiday Play Scheme also provides care for children aged from eight to eleven. The provision is open each weekday from 09.00 to 17.00 in school holidays. All children share access to secure enclosed outdoor play areas.

There are currently 100 children aged from three to under eight years on roll. Children attending are from a wide catchment area. The setting currently supports a number of children with learning or behavioural difficulties.

The provision employs 23 members of staff. All have appropriate early years qualifications.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

The environment used by the children in the holiday play scheme is very clean and very well maintained. The play scheme manager and staff ensure that all facilities are ready for the children as they arrive for registration at the start of their day. Effective accident and medication procedures are in place to ensure the good health of children, with good written records an important aspect of these policies. There are several staff within the setting who are qualified first aiders and high standard first aid equipment is readily available. This enables the setting to act in the best interest of children if they sustain a minor injury. The good health of the children is also promoted by the setting having in place a policy to exclude children who may be infectious and by obtaining parents' written permission to enable them to seek emergency medical treatment. Children of all ages in the play scheme are taught about good hygiene and healthy life choices, for example about the importance of exercise and a balanced diet. As a result children wash their hands at regular intervals during the day; for example, before eating or after out door play, to help prevent the spread of infection.

Physical development is good. Children have opportunities to take part in regular vigorous exercise, both indoors and outdoors. The setting plans for children's physical development on a daily basis and supports children well, both in their free choice and in adult led activities. There is a very good range of organised games for the children which includes volley ball, basketball and hockey. This planned programme is supported by excellent facilities in the form of a spacious school hall, extensive outdoor play areas and a well equipped soft play area. The children in the nursery played purposely on fixed play equipment, on wheeled toys and with small apparatus in their own secure outdoor play area. Children also have the opportunity to develop fine motor skills as the play scheme offers a large range of opportunities to facilitate this, for example, construction games, sewing activities, art work and mark making.

Children bring packed lunches with them to the holiday play scheme; these are safely stored in a cloakroom area with most parents' following the setting's advice to use cooling devices to ensure that hygienic storage conditions exist. In addition to this the setting provides healthy snacks of plain biscuits and fruit juices. The play scheme ensures that it responds properly to all information provided by parents about dietary needs and that children have the chance to share a meal together at mid day. Drinking water is available to all children throughout the day, water fountains are located both indoor and outdoor and the youngest children in the nursery area are always encouraged to drink water as they play and undertake activities.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

The premises used by the play scheme are very secure and safe for children. Visitors to the setting are able to enter only through controlled access points. There are very effective procedures in place for the arrival and collection of children so that they are kept safe. The setting has clear guidance in place to safeguard children's welfare with experienced and trained staff effectively ensuring that this guidance is followed properly. Adults working in the holiday club are aware of procedures to follow if any allegations are made against staff. Children are aware of what to do to keep themselves safe in an emergency as the setting has in place good emergency evacuation procedures. The play scheme has good fire detection and control equipment in place.

The holiday club uses very effective health and safety procedures. The manager undertakes regular risk assessments to ensure that children play in a safe environment where risks have been minimised. Such risk assessments include, the safe use of the facilities; for example the school hall, the proper use of sports' equipment, the suitability of activities that the children undertake; including mountain bicycle training and a complete assessment of all planned outings. The setting offers an extensive range of trips to children; for example, to local parks and farms or for ice-skating and bowling, all of which are risk assessed before being undertaken. The manager ensures that staff have a good understanding of the setting's health and safety policy to ensure that children are kept safe and free from unnecessary risk.

The premises used by the holiday play scheme are spacious, well resourced and supported by an effective deployment of staff that care for children well. The premises are welcoming to children offering interesting activities in stimulating child-friendly accommodation. There is a good range of toys and resources that are maintained in a good condition and cover all areas of children's development. Activities for the children are planned and well organised and they enable children to take part in a range of appropriate and challenging activity. This also includes areas where children can work quietly; for example, the computer room, or concentrate on individual work; for example in the art or games room.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

The children in the holiday play scheme are able to take part in a wide range of activities that are self selected or adult led. The children enjoy their time in the setting as they are able to select from an extensive programme of activities including; art work based on the 2012 Olympic Games in the art room, board games in the dedicated games area and computer games and learning activities in the well equipped computer room. The youngest children in the nursery undertook appropriate activities which included puppet making and exploring their own outdoor area. Beyond the nursery the setting allows children to move freely between activities with staff responding flexibly to meet the needs of the children. Most children responded very maturely to this option as they spent an appropriate amount of time on each activity before moving on. This was shown in the art room where children working on a sewing activity had targets to be completed before they decided to move to elsewhere in the play scheme. Movement around the setting by the children was good even though the facilities at their disposal are spread out in a large building. In addition to fostering children's independence the setting provides adult led activities, such as specific skills tuition in sports or in French, which enables staff to provide children with timely interventions and appropriate support. The children use their time well in the setting and are valued as individuals, for example, their work is celebrated in displays and many conversations take place where children have the chance to express opinions about the holiday play scheme. The deployment of staff, particularly the policy of directly responding to the developmental needs of the children, enables children to both achieve worthwhile targets and to face challenge in what they do. The manager has in place good plans which can be adapted according to the needs of the children.

The good relationships between the staff and the children, together with the very good facilities and planned activities, make the holiday club a thriving and secure environment for children. The manager has in place good levels of appropriate support for all children which allows them to consolidate existing skills and learn new ones in a well supported learning environment. In the computer room for example, children became more competent users as a direct result of staff having high expectations and setting children challenging goals.

The setting has clear rules about how children should behave, these rules are consistently and patiently applied by all staff under the direction of the manager and deputy manager. This results in a setting with largely harmonious relationships with children being engaged on a range of well planned activities.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

The children in the holiday club are all treated with equal concern as staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children. The setting works under the direct advice of the local authority in relation to the implementation of, for example, their equal opportunities policy. As a result the setting is a very inclusive environment where children can be seen to show respect to each other and to adults. Children are treated as individuals with varying needs in a setting that has good relationships where children respond positively to the experiences that are on offer. The manager has ensured that resources reflect diversity and promote a wide range of positive images. Staff have opportunities to undertake relevant training to ensure that effective implementation of policy takes place. Children with learning or behavioural difficulties are very well supported within the holiday play scheme by all the staff. The setting wants all children to take part in a range of worthwhile activities that gives children a sense of achievement. To achieve this the manager has put in place a very good support programme for children which responds to the individual needs of the child. This often includes direct one to one support or the extensive use of an effective key worker system. This approach ensures that children are welcomed into the play scheme and guided through the day benefiting from the experiences that have been planned for them. This approach is shown as children are registered and introduced to the day's activities by staff acting as key workers. The manager ensures that all information about children with learning or behavioural difficulties is obtained well in advance of them attending the scheme; this ensures that needs can be met as information is effectively used.

The holiday play scheme provides very good role models for children in an interesting environment of play, discovery and fun. Children have clear boundaries that are consistently applied by well deployed staff helped greatly by generous staff:children ratios and excellent facilities. The atmosphere within the setting is purposeful as children demonstrate a sense of achievement and a willingness to learn new skills. A group of children in the school hall, for example, spent a sustained period of time enhancing their catching skills and showed great delight when improvement was evident. Behaviour within the setting is good as children of all ages have a good understanding of right and wrong. Children often manage their own behavioural incidents with some success. For example in the computer room children decided for themselves who they should work with and they were mindful not to make too much noise and so disturb their immediate neighbours. There were many examples of children working well together, for example, as they played together sharing resources or taking turns.

Parents' feedback to the setting shows that they value its work. A parent, for example, praised the play scheme for improving their child's confidence and others spoke of their children enjoying the activities on offer. Parents are given a comprehensive range of relevant information about the setting and as a result have sufficient knowledge of important procedures, including the complaints procedure. A notice board is available in the setting to provide parents with up to date information. Parents have opportunities to talk to staff informally at the start and end of the day and most parents provide the manager with a written evaluation at the end of the holiday play scheme. The setting works very hard to act on information from parents, for

example in relation to children with learning or behavioural difficulties. The holiday play scheme has very good procedures for the arrival and departure of children and an effective policy for children who may be lost or uncollected.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The provider has established robust recruitment procedures. These help ensure that staff employed at the holiday club are suitable to work with children. The staff employed are also very experienced, including the manager, and all hold a relevant qualification in child-care. Consequently, they have a good understanding of how young children learn.

The manager ensures that staff are deployed effectively in order to achieve the setting's objectives when working with children. In addition the manager ensures that training needs of the staff are known and met and that staff have a good knowledge of their roles and responsibilities. The planning of activities, the facilities available and the effective role of the staff have resulted in a good level of provision for the children. All policies and procedures are in place and made accessible within the setting to keep staff and parents informed of practical issues. All required children's records are in place and maintained and stored in a confidential manner. Though the setting tracks all children at all times there is a weakness as attendance registers for the children do not contain exact information about the amount of time the children spend in the holiday play scheme.

The organisation of activities and routines is very effective and ensures that children spend time learning and playing in a productive and supportive atmosphere. Facilities are very good and are organised well by staff as children have access to; a range of indoor activities, regular outdoor play and they take part in many interesting trips. Staff deployment always supports children's activities appropriately.

The provider has put in place good policies and practice which has resulted in a good social environment for children of all ages and levels of development to be in. Children enjoy their time in the club and the good partnership with parents ensures children's needs are met very well. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The last inspection made no recommendations for the holiday play scheme.

## **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 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 good. 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):

- ensure that the daily attendance registers contains precise information about the time that the children spend in the holiday play scheme.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)