

YMCA

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 140478 |
| Inspection date | 04 July 2007 |
| Inspector | Jane Davenport |

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| Setting Address | Rokesly School, Hornsey, LONDON, N8 8NH |
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| Type of inspection | Childcare |
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| Type of care | Out of School care |
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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?

YMCA out of school care at Rokesly School was registered in 1998. It is one of a number of out of school provisions run by the Hornsey branch of the YMCA and operates from Rokesly Primary School, which is situated in the Hornsey area of the London borough of Barnet.

A maximum of 40 children from three years to under eight years may attend the out of school club and a maximum of 100 children from three years to under eight years may attend the holiday play scheme at any one time. Care is also provided for children over 8 years. The group operates each weekday during term time from 08:00 to 09:00 and from 15:15 to 18:15, and during school holidays from 08:30 to 18:00. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 108 children on roll. The group is able to support children with special needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

The provision employs seven staff, including the manager, six of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a clean environment. They benefit from a reasonable level of cleanliness and hygiene within the hall, which effectively contributes to limiting the risk of cross infection. This is further supported by the availability of resources such as anti-bacterial sprays and tissues, used effectively by staff to help limit the spread of germs and infection within the group.

Several members of staff have a current first aid qualification and a satisfactory knowledge of first aid procedures, which means that children receive appropriate care if there is an accident. Accidents are recorded and signed by staff, but not all entries in the accident book have been signed by parents. Registration forms include parents' written consent for emergency medical treatment, but these are filed centrally and are not available on the premises.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They enjoy nutritiously balanced hot meals, which are prepared by the school cook. Menus feature cultural variety and vegetarian alternatives. Mealtimes are social occasions when the children and staff sit down together conversing while they eat. Fresh drinking water is available at all times. Children's dietary requirements are recorded on their registration forms, but, again, these are filed centrally and not available to staff on the premises or for inspection. Information about children who have special dietary requirements is passed on verbally to the cook, but is on a "word of mouth" basis, based on what the manager and staff know. This compromises children's health and well being.

Children regularly enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their health and develop their physical skills. They demonstrate a good sense of space and move confidently during physical activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children play in an environment that generally allows them to move around safely. Some good staff interaction helps develop children's awareness of safety within the setting and they have easy and safe access to a good range of toys and resources appropriate to their age. The premises are secure and there are good systems in place to prevent unwanted visitors gaining access.

Written risk assessments for the premises have been carried out. However, these are not done on a regular basis, and the last one recorded was over a year ago. Fire drills are carried out every half term, but records of these are not available to inspect. Daily checks are carried out informally, but not recorded, and, on the day of the inspection, several electrical sockets at the children's level were not fitted with safety covers. This lack of adequate assessments, checks and records compromises children's safety at the setting.

Staff are aware of child protection policies and understand the procedures to follow if they have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy using the outdoor play space and become quickly involved in some well-organised team games such as cricket. All children, including boys and girls, are actively encouraged to take a turn at the wicket and there is very positive interaction from staff with lots of praise for their good batting and fielding. Other children play in the wooded area on the wooden stepping stones or with their hula hoops, while some prefer to sit in small groups with their friends chatting and discussing their day.

Indoors, children are settled and involved in the activities provided. They receive a good level of support and encouragement from staff at an animal drawing activity and collage table and receive praise for their achievements. Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as art and craft, painting and role-play.

There is a good adult/child ratio and staff are well deployed during the session.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

There is a good balance of male and female staff at the setting, providing good role models for the children. Children have access to some resources that provide a positive outlook on the wider world, such as flags of the world puzzles, and staff use henna to paint mendhi patterns on the children's hands. However, there are few resources which reflect positive images of gender and disability and this is an area that needs to be extended.

Children's behaviour is generally good. They are polite, able to share and take turns. Behaviour management strategies are appropriate, according to the age and level of understanding of children in attendance. Children benefit from some basic ground rules that are consistently applied and are able to make suggestions in the suggestion box that is sometimes available.

Parents provide appropriate and relevant information about their children on their registration forms, but these are not available on site for reference to be made to them, and this impedes children being able to receive individual care and attention according to their needs. Parents are greeted upon collecting their child, but, on the day of the inspection, little interaction with staff or exchange of information was evident.

A complaints policy and log is in place and parents know the procedure to follow if they wish to make a complaint. However, a recent significant event regarding a potentially serious injury to a child and the ensuing complaint was not reported to Ofsted. This is a breach of a regulation.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Although the session itself is generally organised well, with staff arriving in good time to ensure the activities are set out and ready for the children, organisation in other areas is poor. There is currently no staff register in place and the children's register does not include their hours of attendance. This is a breach of a regulation.

Most records are kept at head office, including staff files, and documentation on site is disorganised. A minimal level of documentation is available on site for inspection and this is a further breach of a regulation.

The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, an action was set to notify Ofsted of any staff changes and provide evidence of their qualifications and up to date CRB checks. In addition, a recommendation was made to review and update the complaints statement for parents, to include all required details. The organisation is now compliant with notifying Ofsted if there is a change of manager or the registered person, and they carry out satisfactory checks to ensure all staff have up to date CRB checks and are qualified appropriately. The complaints statement includes all details that are required.

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 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 that all entries in the accident record are countersigned by parents
- record information about children's special dietary requirements, ensuring all staff are aware of these and that the information is available on the premises
- assess the risks to children in relation to potential hazards at the setting and take action to minimise these
- keep a record of complaints relating to the national standards and any action taken, and ensure that Ofsted is informed of any such complaints
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of significant events and matters

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