

Ensign Youth Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	119568
Inspection date	02 October 2007
Inspector	Graham Saltmarsh

Setting Address	Wellclose Square, off The Highway, London, E1 8HY
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Registered person	The Ensign Youth Club
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?

Ensign Junior Youth Club is situated in the Ensign Club building. The premises is a two storey building with an enclosed outdoor play space at the rear. The Junior Youth Club uses a large hall and a smaller room on the ground floor. Youth groups for children from five years to 18 years operate from the premises. A community group providing support for local residents also operates from the premises. The senior youth group and the community support group operate at times when the Junior Youth Club is not in operation. The Junior Youth Club provides after school care for children aged from five to 11 years Mondays to Thursdays 15.30 -17.45 during the school term times. Children attending the club attend St Paul's school that is situated opposite the premises.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Overall children's health is promoted appropriately. The setting is immaculately clean especially in and around the kitchen and toilet areas. Ample soap and clean towels are available. Staff act as good role models, wiping down surfaces before serving food to help children stay healthy.

However, there are inconsistencies in promoting good practice in regard to washing hands, as some children did not wash their hands before eating. Children's medical needs are met whenever required as parental consents for first aid or the administration of medication are obtained and most staff hold current first aid certificates. Appropriate procedures and record keeping systems ensure that children's individual dietary and medical needs are recognised and met.

Children are adequately nourished and they learn about making healthy choices from the selection of snacks on offer. Toast is a favourite here with a variety of toppings, children also enjoy pieces of fruit and biscuits. Children help themselves to regular drinks of fruit juice or water throughout the session so that they are not thirsty.

Children learn about keeping healthy by enjoying a good range of physical activities in the purpose built sports hall. As well as ball games and exercise the use of challenging equipment such as, the climbing wall with safety mats, promotes their physical development and self confidence. Children have a good awareness of space and they move with confidence and control. Children use and develop their manipulative dexterity and they confidently use a range of tools during the session, such as, felt tips, scissors and pencils.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a very clean, spacious and generally well maintained welcoming environment, which is very well organised. There is an adequate range of toys and equipment on offer, all of which are in good condition. However, some are stored away so that children cannot make their own choices. All computers at the after school club have been secured to prevent access to any inappropriate sites or material. Children play in a welcoming environment where most risks have been identified and minimised. However, hazards that are just beyond the normal reach of a child have not been identified. For example, a cupboard in the main sports hall, housing an electrical distribution box and circuit breakers, is insecure and could pose a potential hazard to inquisitive children.

A daily check of the premises is carried out at the beginning of each session and they are very well secured whilst in use. Children's overall welfare and safety is protected by robust procedures, documents and records of incidents. For example, there are detailed recording systems to ensure that parents are informed of any accidents, incidents or injuries that their child may sustain whilst at the setting.

Staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures and maintain a good working relationship with the local authority social services department. They are clear about acting in children's best interests in the event of concerns for their welfare, which means that children are well protected and kept safe from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

All children arrive happy and after a warm welcome from staff are eager to participate in all that is on offer. Children know the routines well and they are learning to look after themselves. They are developing independence as they choose between a range of resources that are developmentally appropriate and appeal to a range of ages. Older children work especially well with the younger members of the club and all have a warm relationship with the staff who clearly understand all their individual needs. Children learn to share and be thoughtful towards

each other. For example, the after school club has a dedicated and extremely popular computer suite where children are developing their information technology skills. They were seen to quietly negotiate between each other and share the time available.

The after school club has an ethos of 'fairness and sharing' and this is apparent in its practice. Children have opportunities to present their suggestions and ideas which help them to feel included in the life of the setting. Children access a range of appropriate resources and activities, which help them to develop positive attitudes towards diversity. Systems are in place to care for any children who may have learning difficulties and disabilities and the setting is improving disability access following a recent consultation.

Children are very keen to discuss the after school club and their enjoyment, they express their enjoyment at participating in art and craft work and would like to do even more if possible. The large colourful displays proudly demonstrate the imaginative artistic abilities of the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are forming good relationships with staff and with each other. Staff know the children well and take time to ensure that all are well settled in an activity of their choice. Children's behaviour is good; they respond quickly to staff and happily follow simple and clear instructions. Children actively embrace the ethos of 'fairness and sharing' thus, social skills, tolerance for each other and relationships, are strength within the setting. Large colourful displays celebrate a variety of traditions and occasions ranging from Ramadan to Mothers Day. Photographic displays celebrate past community special occasions where parents have been actively involved. Children are very happy to discuss and share what they have done at their after school club.

Staff provide excellent role models, for example, a conversation was overheard between a staff member and a male child; they were agreeing that the lyrics of some rap songs were 'not nice' and that the club was not a place for any 'stuff about guns and hurting people'. This excellent practice demonstrates the confidence children have in being able to approach staff to discuss sensitive issues that impact upon their community.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The after school club is led and managed well and they are committed to improvement and are bringing about significant improvements. These are reflected in the way in which the children make a positive contribution to the community, however they have not yet filtered through fully into the other aspects of the club. Children benefit from a well prepared environment that enables them to make decisions and pursue their own interests. This contributes to their enjoyment at the setting as they initiate their own play. Children are outgoing, happy and self-assured because the staff develop a warm but nonetheless appropriately firm relationship with them. Behaviour management is excellent. There are good ratios of staff to children.

Appropriate recruitment, induction and vetting procedures ensure that adults are suitable and have the necessary skills and knowledge to work with children. Staff are regularly appraised and their own career development is encouraged for the benefit of the individual staff member and the children at the setting.

All the required documentation which ensures children's welfare is in place. This includes parental consents and details of any medical needs which are securely stored with the appropriate regard to confidentiality. Staff work well together and demonstrate enthusiasm for creating an interesting and stimulating environment for all children. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to ensure that a particular member of staff should attend a suitable person's interview. Although this was complied with, the staff member concerned has since left the setting. All current staff are appropriately qualified and have undergone a full recruitment vetting procedure.

The provider agreed to ensure that the premises was kept at an adequate temperature and clean at all times. This has been fully complied with.

It was recommended at the last inspection that a safe procedure is adopted for collecting children and their safe arrival at the club. Now, either the head teacher or a deputy escorts the children safely to the setting.

It was also recommended that good hygiene practices should be in place at the club. Although the entire premises are themselves very clean, some practice is inconsistent in promoting good hygiene awareness, such as, washing hands before eating.

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):

- ensure hand washing practice is consistently promoted
- ensure that the electrical cupboard is made safe and secure.

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