

Chelmsford YMCA @ Kings Road Primary School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY344037
Inspection date	07 June 2007
Inspector	Ann Marie Cozzi
Setting Address	Kings Road Primary School, Kings Road, CHELMSFORD, CM1 2BB
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Registered person	Chelmsford YMCA
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?

Chelmsford YMCA Out of School Clubs @ Kings Road is one of four out of school clubs run by Chelmsford YMCA. It opened in 2006 and operates mainly from the large hall at Kings Road School. It is situated in central Chelmsford. A maximum of 26 children may attend the club at any one time. There are currently 29 children from four to under eight years on roll. Children aged over eight years also attend. It is open each weekday from 07.30 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 18.00 before and after school. The holiday club is open during every school holiday from 07.30 to 18.00. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. Children come from Kings Road Primary School, Melbourne Park Primary School, Lawford Mead Junior School and Lawford Mead Infant and Nursery School during term time and from the wider community during school holidays.

The out of school scheme employs 13 members of staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and from 4Children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning about the importance of health and hygiene from being cared for in an environment where adequate hygiene practices are maintained, for example, they learn the importance of washing their hands prior to eating and after using the toilet. Staff are first aid trained ensuring children receive good care in the event of an accident or illness. There is an appropriate sickness policy in place, however, original prior parental consent forms are not kept on the premises, resulting in children's good health not being fully protected. Simple health and hygiene guidelines are followed such as cleaning tables before and after use and staff wearing disposable gloves when handling food. This assists in promoting the good health of children.

Children are well nourished as staff provide them with a balanced diet which includes healthy options however, fresh drinking water is not freely available throughout the session. As a result, children may not always be fully hydrated. Records are well maintained regarding children's individual dietary requirements and allergies.

Children can rest and be active according to their needs. They enjoy regular opportunities to engage in physical activities as they have access to a large outside play area and field within the school grounds. There is a suitable range of outdoor play equipment to support their physical development including balls, hoops and skipping ropes. Children also have access to a range of tools and equipment to promote their manipulative skills, such as construction bricks and art and craft materials.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Toys are stored safely in cupboards in the main hall. Some of the children's work and achievements are displayed in the hall. This assists in promoting a sense of belonging. Staff have an awareness of how to organise space, furniture and equipment effectively to enable children to move around freely with independence. As a result, children feel confident within the setting and are secure in their environment.

The provision has some measures in place to ensure that risks to children's safety are identified and minimised through the use of daily safety checks. However, the registered person has not undertaken a risk assessment of the premises. As a result children are potentially at risk from access to some out of bounds areas, inappropriately stored furniture and security of the premises. There is a registration system in place which records children's time of arrival and departure. There are some clear written safety procedures in place which are applied by staff, for example, a procedure to follow in the event of a fire.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as staff are vetted and have a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. The setting's policy identifies the correct procedures to follow should staff have any concerns and staff are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities in the protection of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at this setting and are confident, happy and settled. There is an adequate range of toys and resources which are interesting and stimulating. Children play very well together and particularly enjoy table top games and craft activities. A range of play and learning opportunities are initially selected by staff and made accessible, on children's arrival. Children confidently request specific resources which are then made available to them. There are opportunities to rest or relax comfortably in a quiet area and, for example, fully benefit from the worthwhile selection of books.

Staff consistently show interest in what children have to say, praise and encourage them. They have developed warm, positive and comfortable relationships with them which, builds self-esteem. All children receive good levels of support from the staff team. Children make friends with their peers and with the staff initiating conversations and involving other children and adults in their play. Staff interact well with children during activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have some access to resources which support their independent learning about diversity. For example the book area which assists in helping children begin to appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences. Children behave well throughout the session this is encouraged by staff who use positive behaviour management techniques. They are able to share and take turns when playing together and are sometimes included in the development of simple rules for the group. Staff are consistent in their approach to children's behaviour.

Parents are introduced to the group's policies and procedures at the beginning of the placement. They are also asked to provide full details about their children, including any learning disabilities. There is an appropriate complaints procedure in place and parents receive information on forthcoming events and activities. Regular verbal feedback is given to parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Out of school children are cared for by a regular, sensitive and qualified staff team. The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) also operates during school holidays, with children attending the holiday scheme feeling secure and confident because the large staff team looking after them are from their individual out of school clubs.

There is a robust employment procedure in place which ensures all staff are checked to protect children from harm. There is a procedure in place for the induction of new staff which includes health and safety and child protection policies and procedures. Professional development and training needs are identified through regular staff appraisals. This ensures that children are cared for by staff who have appropriate knowledge and understanding which promotes positive outcomes for children. The organisation of space meets the needs of children.

Although, most documentation is in place not all relevant records are available on site to promote the overall care of children and the safe and efficient management of the service.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration, 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):

- further promote the good health of children by ensuring drinking water is available to them at all times
- further promote safety by conducting a risk assessment inside and outside of the premises and on outings and ensure that proper precautions are taken to minimise risks to children and prevent accidents
- further develop systems to ensure all relevant records to promote the care of children and the safe management of the service are accessible when children are on site.

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