

Wallace Close Playcentre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	255260
Inspection date	13 June 2007
Inspector	Jackie Nation
Setting Address	Darley House, Wallace Close, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 1HT
Telephone number	0121 544 0834
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Registered person	Sandwell Adventure 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Wallace Close Playcentre opened in 1989 and is organised by the Sandwell Adventure Play Association (SAPA). The playcentre operates from a ground floor flat in Darley House, Oldbury and offers an 'open access' play provision. The playcentre serves children in the local community.

A maximum of 16 children aged from five to eight years may attend the playcentre at any one time. It is the admission policy of the playcentre to allow children up to the age of 14 years to attend. The playcentre is open each weekday, during school term times from 15:15 until 18:15 and school holiday sessions are from 14:00 to 17:00. The playcentre supports children who speak English as an additional language.

Two members of staff work with the children and hold appropriate playwork and early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because staff are active in promoting good hygiene by raising children's awareness of good practice and healthy living. Children's health needs are well supported as good procedures are in place to ensure children are cared for appropriately if they become ill. The group have written parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Staff hold first aid qualifications and a first aid box is easily accessible. However, some accident records for children under eight do not contain all the required information, for example, the time of the accident and the parent's signature. Potentially this compromises children's well-being.

Children are able to buy a range of snacks whilst at the group and they have access to juice and water which helps to keep them hydrated. Staff are aware of children with special dietary needs. They find out about children's needs by talking to parents and recording details of any specific requirements or allergies.

Children's physical development is well supported. Staff recognise that this contributes to children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle, helps them develop confidence and enhances their physical skills. Children enjoy a range of physical activities indoors and outside. They walk to a local field to play baseball, football and parachute games. Children also visit local activity centres where they are able to develop their physical skills and confidence. This interesting combination of activities contributes to the children's health and well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe within this 'open access' group because staff have a good awareness of health and safety issues. Staff are deployed effectively and are vigilant about children's safety indoors, outdoors and on outings. Regular risk assessments are carried out to identify any potential hazards. Children know how to evacuate the premises in an emergency and are learning to take responsibility for themselves as they develop an understanding about playing safely. Planned activities and discussions raise children's awareness of road safety and cycling proficiency. Access to the premises is monitored and staff check identification and ask visitors to sign the visitor's book. There are procedures in place for the arrival and collection of children to ensure their safety and to ensure parents understand the nature of an 'open access' facility.

Children are warmly greeted by staff on arrival. There are good displays of children's artwork and topic work and it is evident that children enjoy taking part in varied activities. Children benefit from being able to play and move freely indoors. This is because staff use space effectively and provide a range of activities and resources that are suitable for children of different abilities and interests.

Children are well protected because staff have a good understanding of child protection and they have completed training. Staff understand their responsibilities in sharing and recording any concerns they may have. They are able to put the appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. Children are cared for by adults who are vetted and have relevant experience, knowledge and skills.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy attending the playcentre. They arrive happy, chat with their friends and staff before they join in a range of activities and play experiences. Children's needs are met and their welfare promoted by staff who have a good understanding of each child and who find out about their interests. Children benefit from being able to initiate their own activities and this helps them to acquire new knowledge, skills and understanding. Children are able to share their ideas and views about activities with staff. This helps staff plan an interesting programme of activities which children find interesting and enjoyable. Children are well occupied, they enjoy being creative, reading books, playing board games, Playstation games and pool. Children go on outings to local activity centres, ball parks and nature centres. There is a good selection of toys and equipment, which are easily accessible and meets all aspects of children's development.

Staff interaction with the children is very good and carefully balanced. Staff have a warm rapport with the children and this helps to encourage good relationships all round. Staff are positive and respectful to children, they value each child and what they have to offer. Good behaviour is encouraged and children begin to distinguish between right and wrong. Children understand the need for simple rules and are supported by staff to formulate the rules for the centre. Staff recognise that children are learning to deal with a range of emotions and feelings and help children to find constructive solutions to conflict. Children are comfortable in the relaxed environment where they can try new activities in a safe and supportive environment. This supports their play and learning and develops their confidence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop confidence because staff value their contributions and achievements whilst at the centre. They find out about children's specific needs and this information is recorded. All children are treated equally and have equal access to resources and activities. Anti-discriminatory good practice is promoted as staff use resources which reflect diversity such as books, puzzles, dolls and posters. There are procedures in place to support children whose first language is not English. This ensures all children are fully included in the life of the setting. Staff are positive about inclusion, a policy statement and good staff knowledge and skills supports their practice.

Children behave well because staff use positive strategies to support good behaviour and develop a caring ethos. Any inappropriate behaviour is dealt with sensitively and at a level children understand. Significant incidents are recorded and parents are kept informed of any concerns or issues. Children play well together and staff act as very good role models. They treat children with respect, value their contributions and listen to their opinions and ideas. Children are encouraged to make suggestions and express their ideas. This helps children feel appreciated and have a sense of belonging.

Partnership with parents is good and parents receive a helpful information pack. Policies and procedures are displayed in the entrance area and parents are aware of how they may make a complaint about the provision.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by staff that have been vetted and have good knowledge and understanding of play work and child development. Staff are friendly, approachable and involved in activities. The routine is designed to support children in having freedom of choice and there are opportunities for spontaneous activities as the children develop their own ideas and play. Children enjoy and participate fully in the activities and space and resources are well-organised.

Children benefit from a consistent staff team who work well together and are clear about their role and responsibilities. Children's personal information is stored securely; staff have appropriate medical consents and other information to ensure they can promote the health, safety and well-being of all children. The registration system for children is effective, however, staff attendance is not recorded on a daily basis.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection there were recommendations relating to: sharing child protection policy information with parents; recording arrival and departure times for children; providing resources which promote positive images and recording the number of children and staff present when carrying out fire drills.

All issues raised have received attention and this has improved outcomes for children. Parents receive information about child protection procedures at admission stage, children's hours of attendance are recorded and fire drill records contain relevant information. The setting have given consideration to the provision of activities and resources to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. They have developed resources and the range of activities to promote equality, a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity. A recommendation regarding the attendance register has been carried forward as a recommendation from this inspection as staff hours of attendance are not included in the registration system.

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 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):

- review the accident recording procedures to ensure they contain all the required information
- ensure the system for registering staff attendance on a daily basis, shows their hours of attendance.

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