

YMCA at Holy Trinity Church Halls

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY251974
Inspection date	10 July 2007
Inspector	Catherine Greene
Setting Address	Stapleton Hall Road, London, N4 4RR
Telephone number	02083406088 or 02083477096
E-mail	
Registered person	Hornsey Ymca
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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 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 at Holy Trinity Church Halls was registered in 2003. The nursery is based in the club room, which has its own separate entrance from Granville Road. The out of school care operates from the community hall, which children access via the main entrance in Stapleton Hall Road. Both areas have attached kitchens and toilet facilities. The out of school mainly serves the children from St Aiden's School, who also have access to the school's playground. The nursery is open term time only five days a week from 08.00 to 16.30 and the out of school care is open five days a week during term-time from 15.00 to 18.15. All staff members, including the managers working directly with the children have or are working towards the relevant early years qualifications and experience.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

In the nursery children's health and well-being are supported through appropriate documentation, records and procedures. Records are kept detailing children's individual health, dietary and medical needs. Some staff hold recognised first aid certificates and they follow

appropriate procedures when dealing with sick children. This includes recording temperature and any treatment administered. Healthy eating is promoted well together with parents, children are offered a varied, healthy balanced diet, which include foods from different cultures.

In the out of school club, Children's health is not adequately protected because the setting does not follow appropriate hygiene and health and safety procedures. The system is compromised, staff are unable to locate important documents, such as the register in the absence of the manager and risk assessments for indoor and outdoors are not carried out. Children are developing self-care skills and follow some personal hygiene procedures, however these are hindered when there is no soap available in the toilets.

The system in place for the preparation and serving of food does not promote children's health. Children's snacks and meals are varied and they can help themselves to sandwiches throughout the session, however the kitchen is dirty and staff do not follow food hygiene procedures when preparing hot food. They prepare food on dirty surfaces, which have inappropriate items stored such as back packs placed on the surface for food preparation.

Staff describe how outdoor activities are set up for the children to enjoy in the school playground. They demonstrate that the development of team skills are encouraged, as are activities that improve co-ordination, such as football, rounders and basketball.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

In the nursery children enjoy being cared for in a clean, safe and welcoming environment. There is a good security system, for the safe arrival and departure of children, to protect them from intruders. The systems in place include the effective use of a visitors book, the entry phone at the door and having staff available to welcome and greet parents and other visitors. Elsewhere in the nursery children are kept safe by the use of risk assessments. There are some positive steps being taken to minimise hazards, however some exits are blocked with storage of buggies, the toilet area used by children is also used to store some heavy equipment and stacked chairs. The garden is currently not fit for use and is out of bounds. There is a fire evacuation procedure and assembly point at the front of the building. This is practised regularly so that children are familiar with the drill. Children's safety is optimised through staff ensuring they have access to toys and equipment that are safe, clean and in good condition.

In the hall, used for the out of school club, adequate precautions are not taken to ensure the premises are safe for children to use. Daily risk assessments are not carried out and although safety and maintenance issues are reported, they remain unresolved and in a poor state of repair. Children are at risk whilst playing unsupervised in the garden space which contains several hazards. In the hall children climb on tables next to chairs that are stacked high. They bounce hard footballs off windows that are already unsafe, the safety glass has been cracked and is held together with masking tape.

The hall is not divided and therefore does not allow for different activities to take place at the same time. The range of equipment, toys and resources are limited and the storage cupboards are broken with doors hanging off. The equipment is currently not sufficient or varied enough for the numbers of children using the service.

A registration and signing out system is not completed consistently to ensure children are safely accounted for.

The child protection procedure is available for staff to follow if they have any concerns regarding a child's welfare. However, children are not fully protected from harm because staff are not secure in their knowledge of the procedures to be followed. As a consequence, there are instances when children's welfare is not fully safeguarded. The supervisor is the designated person for child protection although she is often not present.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is inadequate.

Children are settled into the nursery and receive individual attention from staff. They benefit from high staff ratios because of the low numbers attending. Younger children's enjoyment and learning experiences are supported by the staff's involvement in their exploration. Babies learning to walk enjoy the praise they receive when taking their first steps. There are sufficient activities and play materials that encourage children's current stage of development. Staff make the best of the space they have in the large hall, however areas are not yet separated to give the children a more secure feeling of enclosure. Children's art work and photographs are presented in displays and in children's individual folders. This contributes to their sense of belonging and a feeling of self worth.

Older children in the out of school club are mostly engaged; in general they play happily with each other, despite the lack of resources. Staff make basic plans for daily activities however, these are not fully extended. There are no opportunities for children to self select and make choices and they have few opportunities to play imaginatively or enjoy books and stories, due to a lack of resources.

Staff state that children are involved in planning activities and have their opinions listened to. During quieter times, such as art and craft and homework children can work or play freely. Boys and girls play very well together in mixed groups, this is encouraged positively by staff.

Most children are comfortable and settled within the setting. Interaction between staff and children is appropriate; children are spoken to in a warm, calm and respectful manner.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children in the nursery experience the value of their own and others culture and religion through topics and when celebrating festivals. Children participate in a variety of cultural traditions which help them to develop a positive attitude and respect for others. They have a growing awareness of themselves and staff value their thoughts, feelings and contributions. Children are encouraged and supported to participate in activities through the warm and positive language used by staff. Their sense of security and belonging is fostered through the daily exchange of information between staff and their parents. Children are forming close and trusting relationships with key staff. Parents benefit from some opportunities to participate in their child's learning. These are being developed through communication systems such as children's folders, newsletters and through termly meetings and one to one discussion with key workers and the manager.

Children in the out of school club are able to make some independent choices when selecting activities, however there is a poor range of toys and resources that reflect diversity. Staff treat all the children as individuals; they know the children well and speak to them with respect. Children are involved in developing their own ground rules of acceptable behaviour.

Positive attitudes are encouraged by staff. However children are not always guided to be aware of other people's needs and to show respect for each other's ideas. In the main, children receive some support from the partnership between staff and their parents and there is reported to be a regular exchange of information about issues relating to children's activities, health and well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The newly appointed assistant manager is working with her line management and independent advisors, in order to take positive steps towards developing the organisation within the nursery. She is aware that further development is needed to enhance the care for children.

The supervisor of the out of school club has a suitable childcare qualification and is negotiating her role and responsibility with the assistant manager. However, there are weaknesses in the management of the provision when she is regularly absent at other sites or during training for example. Staff-child ratios are undermined and there are no contingency plans in place. Staff are working towards play service qualifications and plan to complete child protection and other relevant training in the near future. They are not however confident and aware of their roles and responsibilities, the deputy supervisors role is not yet fully developed to enable him to effectively cover in the manager's absence. Staff in the out of school club do not consistently organise the daily routines and resources available, which compromises the care being offered to the differing age groups attending.

Children share positive relationships with staff that have been vetted for their suitability to work with young children. There are policies and procedures in place, which work in practice to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. Although staff do not consistently maintain registration procedures, ensuring all children are recorded on arrival and departure.

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 the following recommendations were made to improve practice; ensure risk assessments of the premises have time scaled actions taken to minimize identified risks and that these are reviewed as necessary. These are still not being completed in the out of school club. In addition they were asked to increase play resources and equipment for children under eight years old and include resources that reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability. The resources are still limited and poor in quality in the out of school club. In addition they were asked to provide a written statement of procedures to be followed in the event of a child being lost or a parent failing to collect a child and to request parental consent for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. They now have an appropriate policy for lost or uncollected children and parental consent has been requested for emergency medical treatment.

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 anyone responsible for the preparation and handling of food is aware of, and complies with, Environmental Health requirements
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations. Ensure staff have a secure understanding of the National Standards for Out of School care to support the needs of the children attending
- ensure records are maintained on site and are completed accurately including registers
- ensure all fire exits are clear (both sites)
- ensure the good health of children is promoted by providing soap for children and staff to wash their hands
- take positive steps to make sure that hazards in relation to the cracked glass in the windows and the storage cupboard doors are minimised, to ensure children's safety and prevent accidents
- review hygiene standards in the kitchen, and provide soap in the toilets to ensure that children are not exposed to cross infection
- provide a suitable range of toys and activities, in order to meet the developmental needs of children from five to under eight years.

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