

Tunbury Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	127733
Inspection date	22 August 2007
Inspector	Freeda Wildon
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Registered person	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
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?

Tunbury Playscheme opened in 1994 and owned by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. It operates from a hall and two side rooms in a community hall in Walderslade, Kent. The play scheme serves the local area.

There are currently 37 children from four to eight years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The play scheme opens five days a week, four weeks a year during the school summer holidays. Sessions are from 09:00 to 13:00.

The setting supports children who speak English as an additional language and children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

There are nine staff working with the children. Half the staff have early years qualifications to level 2 or 3. The other staff are trainee teachers and students. The setting receives support from the youth and development officer from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean environment because staff ensure that the premises, toys and equipment are clean. Children learn about good hygiene practices through the daily routine, for example, hand washing before eating and after using the toilet. Children understand that this prevents the spread of infection. When children have accidents or are unwell staff take care of the children well and implement good practice when clearing up bodily fluids, for example, they wear protective gloves. This limits the spread of infection.

Children's allergies and dietary needs are known and recorded; children self-medicate and staff keep a written record which they share with parents. Most of the staff have a first aid qualification and there is a well stocked first aid box. This enables staff to act in the best interest of children should there be an accident.

Children learn about healthy eating through the activities and because staff provide healthy drinks and snacks. Water is always available so that children can keep their bodies hydrated especially during exercise. Children enjoy playing outside and in the nearby park. This is undertaken frequently to promote healthy lifestyles; they take part in a wide range of physical play, such as, ball games, cricket, hockey. They also have the opportunity to engage in other physical activities indoors, such as, dancing and gymnastics.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Good procedures are in place to keep children safe. All visitors are asked to sign the visitors book. Children's safety is ensured through the registration process. For example, all children arrive with a registration card which is exchanged for a colour coded wrist band. This ensures that all children are recorded and regular head counts keep them safe and secure. There are sufficient toys and equipment to cover all areas of learning; they are checked before the summer sessions and staff check them on a daily basis so children can play safely.

Children know how to keep themselves safe; they know the boundaries and the rules when playing outside. They know who the responsible adults are because staff wear recognisable tee shirts. Staff deploy themselves effectively to keep children from harm; children are well supervised especially when playing outside. Regular fire practices ensure that children are able to leave the premises safely in the event of an emergency.

All staff have child protection training as part of the induction training before the summer session starts, therefore, they have a sound knowledge and understanding of children's welfare and how to keep children safe. Attention to ensuring children's safety is rigorous and robust. Excellent procedures mean that all adults wishing to care for children are fully checked to establish their suitability before they begin work at the group. This contributes to keeping children safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and contented. They are having a wonderful time because staff provide a range of interesting activities for the children covering all areas of learning. They are independent in choosing their activities; they enjoy dancing and playing outdoors. Children are confident because staff support the children well; praising and encouraging the children as they play and learn new skills.

Children have good self-esteem because staff value them; they are proud to perform to their friends showing their skills, such as, playing the clarinet, violin and guitar. Some children sing and dance and show their gymnastic skills to the audience. These efforts are appreciated by their friends and staff who applaud and praise them. Children have easy access to art and craft materials; they enjoy painting, mask making and modelling. Photographic evidence shows enjoy children making large models and a Birthday cake for staff from dough. Weekly workshops are held where children learn new skills such as circus skills and sports.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel welcome at the setting because there is a 'buddy' system for new children. A new child buddies with a child who is familiar with the setting to help her/him settle and have a sense of belonging. Children are well behaved because staff treat children with respect and there are good quality and interesting activities to occupy children and keep them interested. Children take responsibility for their behaviour because they agree and discuss the rules of the play scheme.

Opportunities for children to find out about the local and wider community are excellent. Staff give careful thought to inviting visitors into the setting to share their skills, experience and personal culture with the children, for example, people from travelling communities share stories, music with bones and spoons and broom dancing.

All children are welcome to the setting; staff support children with disabilities and additional needs well. Their individual needs are known because staff undertake home visits to assess children's needs and work in partnership with parents and outside agencies. Activities are planned so that all children can join in and key workers support individual children; they share information with other staff. Visual aids displayed on the wall help all children to understand the daily routine.

Staff welcome parents warmly to the setting and notices about play scheme are displayed for parents. The complaints procedure for parents reflects the regulation and a log is prepared. The play scheme policies are available for parents in the staff manual, however, this a large document and not user friendly to parents. As a result parents are not totally familiar with the policies. Parents fill in questionnaires to give staff feedback about the service and parents' wishes are taken into consideration.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff work well as a team, they are able to update their knowledge and skills through regular training. As a result, children benefit from a staff team with knowledge of current good practice

to ensure they meet their needs. The routine is organised so that children have times to be active, be quiet and for snacks. However, snack time for up to 60 children is not organised effectively, resulting in children spending more time waiting for their turn.

All mandatory documentation and parental consents are in place. The certificate of registration is displayed, as a result parents are easily able to confirm details of the holiday play scheme's registration. Rigorous and robust procedures to recruit staff are in place. For example, all staff have undergone checks to establish their suitability to work with children and criminal records bureau checks are renewed each year. The children's records and staff emergencies details are held on site. The holiday play scheme meets the needs of the children for whom care is provided.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection four recommendations were made. They were to; ensure that all staff are recorded on the register; ensure that parents are made aware of the policies and procedures; provide a complaints procedure for parents which include Ofsted's complaints contact number and to update the lost and uncollected child policy to include time scales and the police. There is a separate attendance register for staff; the policies and procedures are available to parents; the complaints procedure is up to date and reflect the new regulation and the lost and uncollected child policy has been updated. These improvements contribute to good outcomes for children.

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 snack time routine so that children do not spend too long waiting.

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