

Barnardo's Indigo Project

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 128523
Inspection date 25 February 2008
Inspector Jane Davenport

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Registered person Barnardo's

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?

Barnardo's Indigo Project was registered in 1994. It is run by the Barnardo's registered charitable organisation and provides after school and holiday day care provision for children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. It operates from a purpose built setting, which is situated in Ilford in the London borough of Redbridge.

A maximum of six children between the ages of four and eight years may attend the provision at any one time. Care is also provided for children and young people over eight years. The group currently operates each day from Monday to Saturday during term time from 15:00 to 19:00; children under eight attend the Monday and Saturday sessions. During school holidays, the group operates on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 to 16:00. All children share access to two general activity rooms, two specialist sensory rooms, a music room, an arts and crafts room and a soft play room. In addition, there is an enclosed outdoor play area, which has ramp access.

There are currently two children aged from four years to under eight years on roll. The provision employs eight staff, including two managers; five of these staff members hold appropriate childcare qualifications and two are working towards achieving a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment, where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene from an early age. Staff give the children excellent support to ensure they flush the toilet and wash and dry their hands very thoroughly and well, in order to minimise the spread of germs.

Staff members have a good knowledge of first aid procedures and they all hold current first aid certificates. This means that they can give appropriate care if there is an accident. Accident and medication records are generally kept appropriately and parents give prior written consent to administer medication, which ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. The accident record is completed fully and parents are informed of any accidents, however, entries are not currently countersigned by children's parents or carers and prior written consent for emergency medical treatment has not been consistently requested.

Children enjoy a healthy diet. They benefit from nutritiously and culturally balanced menus, which include pasta, fish, rice and salad. Meals provided are healthy and take into account children's individual dietary needs very effectively, for example, gluten free and Halal foodstuffs are provided and stored appropriately and there is a separate Halal oven in the kitchen. Portions of fresh fruit, raw vegetables and yoghurts encourage the children to develop healthy eating practices. Children are consulted on the types of food to be included in the menus, and they are developing a growing understanding of what foodstuffs are good for them. Mealtimes are social occasions when children and staff sit down and eat their meals together; there is a homely atmosphere and children are encouraged to make choices and to feed themselves wherever possible.

Children regularly enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their health and develop their physical skills. These include organised games and sports activities such as football in the outdoor play area or climbing and jumping in the soft play room. They demonstrate an appropriate sense of space and move confidently, supported by staff where necessary, during physical activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy the excellent facilities in the setting, where the space is used to excellent effect, providing them with a wide variety of play experiences. The environment is homely and welcoming and staff are always available at the front door to welcome individual children as they arrive. Staff have a clear understanding of safety issues and carry out effective daily checks on the building, outdoor area and equipment. They are vigilant at recording visitors, the premises are secure and there are good systems in place to prevent children from being collected by unauthorised people.

Children use high quality equipment appropriate to their age, ability and stage of development. Those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are safe and fully included because of the sensitive adult support and well-planned adaptations to resources and activities. Regular communication with parents contributes to children's safety.

Children are safeguarded effectively in emergencies and practise emergency evacuation procedures regularly; this helps children become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency. For example, on the day of the inspection, staff and children were observed to react very calmly to the fire drill alarm and to evacuate the building in a timely manner. Children walked with staff to the fire assembly point, listened well and answered their name when the register was called; they received patient explanations from staff about the importance of knowing what to do if a fire did break out.

Children are very well protected by staff who have a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures and who give top priority to children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive happy and eager to participate. They enjoy their time in the setting and gain confidence through consistent routines and close relationships with the friendly, caring staff. High quality adult-child interactions and excellent staffing ratios are extremely supportive of communication skills.

Children enjoy a diverse range of exploratory and sensory experiences, for example, as they participate in sessions in the excellent sensory rooms with interactive equipment, music and light tubes or as they tumble in the ball pool or play with the musical instruments in the music room.

Children have many opportunities to express themselves creatively, as they freely choose from a wide range of materials, colours and textures. Activities are skilfully adapted to include children of all ages and abilities and staff constantly evaluate and seek to improve what is on offer to the children.

Staff make regular observations and record achievements in children's profiles; this helps them to plan for each child to ensure their learning and developmental needs are met. Staff show a good understanding of how children learn and adapt their approach to suit different ages and needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Staff have a very positive attitude towards diversity and are excellent role models, helping children learn the importance of showing respect for all. The project actively promotes inclusion within the local community and beyond. Staff encourage all children to participate in the activities provided, which ensures children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential. They become aware of their own and other cultures through a range of resources and planned activities, for example, they have recently been learning about Chinese New Year.

Children generally behave well. Some children present with challenging behaviour as part of their specific needs and staff are extremely supportive of these children. They have high expectations and set consistent boundaries for the children, which helps them learn to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own behaviour. Staff increase children's understanding of right and wrong; they respond to gentle reminders to care for their environment, the play resources and one another. The children's behaviour is positively reinforced with praise and affirmation. Older children help in the setting of ground rules;

non-verbal children can contribute their ideas through a smiley faces system. Children are developing in confidence and self esteem and this is very effectively encouraged through the use of 'Speak up Day', when they are encouraged and empowered to voice their views and suggestions for the group, all of which are considered and discussed with staff.

A very good partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being in the group. Staff actively seek parents' views about their children's needs and interests before the child starts at the setting, and on a regular basis throughout their time there. Individual care plans are agreed and parents receive good information about the scheme's aims and objectives and activities provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Recruitment and induction procedures at the setting are very effective, which results in all staff being fully aware of the scheme's policies and procedures and what is expected of them. Children benefit from a well-organised environment and receive good support from a staff group that enjoy their company and know them well, which helps them feel secure and confident.

Children enjoy a rich variety of play experiences in a vibrant learning environment, where space and resources are utilised very effectively. Staff work very well as a team and staffing ratios are excellent. Children's development is enhanced by the on-going commitment of staff to furthering their knowledge of good practice through training. Record keeping is generally good; all legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and is regularly reviewed and updated.

There is an ethos of reflective practice throughout the setting with staff making effective evaluations of what they do in order that children continue to flourish. There is a clear vision for the provision and a strong commitment to providing the best possible outcomes 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, two recommendations were set; these were to develop an action plan setting out how the manager and staff qualification requirements will be met and to ensure DC2 forms are completed for each member of staff. Following a change of policy, day care providers are no longer required to complete DC2 forms for all staff; the provision continues to ensure Ofsted are aware of any change in the manager or registered person. Over half of the staff members, including the manager, working at the provision now hold appropriate child care qualifications and others are working towards achieving a qualification. This improvement has had a positive effect on the level of care provided.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004, 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):

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment for all children
- ensure each entry in the accident record is countersigned by the child's parent or carer

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