

Barnes Summer Play School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	509724
Inspection date	14 August 2007
Inspector	Jane Nelson

Setting Address	Kitson Hall, Kitson Road, London, SW13 9HJ
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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?

Barnes Summer Play School was registered in 1989. It operates from Kitson Hall, in Barnes, in the London Borough of Richmond. The premises comprises of two halls, a kitchen, children and adult toilets and an enclosed outdoor area.

The setting is registered to provide care for 48 children from three to under eight years. There are currently 100 children on roll, who attend for a variety of sessions. Children aged eight to 11 years also attend the setting. Systems are in place to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. Children from the local area attend the setting, which operates during five weeks of the school summer holidays from 09.30 to 15.30.

The manager, and half of the staff team working with the children under eight years of age, hold suitable childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Most staff have attended first aid training, with five staff having paediatric first aid qualifications. Records show that first aid is administered and information recorded appropriately for minor accidents. The setting's policy of not caring for sick or infectious children, limits the spread of infectious diseases.

Children's awareness of their own personal hygiene is encouraged, through practices in the daily routine. They are reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating, and some do so independently. Some children use a communal towel, which is provided as an alternative to the electric hand drier, to dry their hands after washing. This provides opportunities for the spread of infection.

Children's awareness of healthy eating is encouraged well. They enjoy healthy snacks of fresh pineapple, raisins and dried apricots and have access to drinking water or juice. Children bring their own packed lunch and lunch time is a social and relaxed occasion. Children enjoy chatting to each other, and staff, who sit with the children and eat their lunch. Healthy packed lunches are encouraged, and projects relating to the Play School's summer topic of healthy foods, reinforce children awareness of healthy eating.

Children have lots of opportunities for physical play and exercise, which encourages their good health. Most children enjoy participating in an aerobic exercise session, they have great fun playing a ring game of 'Duck, Duck, Goose' and have opportunities to run and throw balls in the hall. children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area which is used weather permitting.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe and secure environment where they are well supervised by staff. Risk assessments are used to identify and minimise risks to children. For example, children are escorted by staff when moving through areas used for access, such as at the side of the stage, which have been identified as not safe for children to have unsupervised access to.

Children's awareness of their own safety is promoted by gentle reminders from staff, for children to be careful in their play and as they move around. Written records show that fire drills are practiced regularly during the five weeks of the Summer Play School. This helps children become familiar with the procedure to evacuate the premises in an emergency.

Space is used appropriately to meet children's needs and organised well to help them play, and move around safely. There are areas for creative activities, imaginative play and a comfortable book area where children can sit safely and look at books independently. Children use a good range of play materials and equipment which are safe and in good condition. They play safely with these on play mats on the floor and using child height tables and chairs.

Children's welfare is protected by staff's awareness of child protection issues, their responsibilities, and the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child. A written procedure providing information is in place, however, this does not contain the required procedure for dealing with allegations against staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

A welcoming and interesting environment is provided where children enjoy a varied and well planned range of activities. Tables and floor mats are set out with activities and play materials prior to children's arrival. Children are greeted by staff, at the door, as they arrive and some parents come in and settle their children. Children immediately begin chatting to each other, and staff, and find an activity to do.

Equipment and play materials are set out to encourage and engage children's interest, such as, a home/shop area and dressing up clothes set out in one area of the hall. An attractive book area with a rug and cushions, encourages children to sit comfortably and quietly, looking at books or listening to a story. Table top activities such as, puzzles, play dough and construction materials are presented on child height tables. Children enjoy a range of creative activities, such as, painting at the easel, using shapes for tracing and rubbing patterns, and making models and shapes from clay. Children also enjoy physical activities such as joining in large ring games and participating in an exercise session.

Children are happy and most are settled and secure in the setting. They socialise very well with each other and staff, they chat continually while they are playing, eating and helping to tidy away. Staff interact very well with children, they are friendly, approachable and have fun with the children. They encourage children, playing with them and making suggestions during activities, all of which help children to enjoy their time at the play school. Children talk about what they enjoy, and are proud to show things they have made during creative activities, such as, paintings, clay models and a decorated head dress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enjoy friendly and positive relationships with each other and staff, which promotes their confidence and self esteem. They have many opportunities to learn about each other and diversity. For example, they use resources such as dolls, books and puzzles that reflect differences, hear and speak different languages when counting in French and Italian and see a range of food displayed in posters, relating to the setting's theme on food.

Children behave well, they benefit from the clear boundaries in place and knowing what is expected of them. They are given clear explanations and respond enthusiastically when staff ask them to do something, such as help tidy away for lunch time. Children are busy and interested in activities most of the time, there are times when some children choose to observe an activity or game before joining in. Staff praise children's positive behaviour and value their achievements. For example, awarding stickers and thanking children who help with tidying away, which increases children's self esteem. Their creative work is praised and valued, and children show pride in their achievements when talking about their art work.

Systems are in place to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language, as and when this is required.

Good systems are in place to obtain detailed information relating to children's needs, likes and dislikes, from parents before they come to the setting. This helps staff to plan and be aware of any issues that may prevent children from participating in activities and enjoying their time at the setting. Written policies and procedures are displayed providing information for parents,

further information is available from the Play School's web site. Information is shared with parents verbally on a daily basis, and they are informed of any changes to planned activities. Parents are happy with the service provided and feel their children enjoy coming.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Detailed policies and procedures are in place, and displayed, providing information for parents and reference for staff. However some policies do not contain current information, and, the child protection procedure does not include a procedure for dealing with allegations against staff, which is a requirement in regulations.

The proprietor has a clear vision for the Play School. She ensures a good range of play equipment, activities and play experiences are provided, that help children enjoy their time at the setting and have fun. She is creative in arranging extra curricular activities, such as, a visiting author coming to read her book to the children, which encourage children's interest and involvement. Staff are well deployed to meet children's needs, they are clear and flexible about their roles. Induction and planning sessions take place with staff, prior to the Summer Play School, to plan activities and themes and make sure staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Children's health and safety are adequately protected, with the exception of a communal towel being used for hand drying. Written documentation is well organised and the necessary records are maintained, although, some, such as, the record of staff attendance, do not contain all the necessary detail, and not all records relating to children's attendance are available on the premises. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection an action was set regarding ensuring the manager obtains an appropriate qualification. Recommendations were set regarding; ensuring persons working with children have completed the necessary vetting procedures, parents completing consent forms, developing policies for behaviour management that includes bullying, developing a procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff and obtaining up dated information relating to child protection.

The Proprietor/manager has addressed these as follows; she has completed a Level 3 child care qualification. Current Criminal Records Bureau, checks are in place for existing staff and systems are in place to process checks for new staff when needed. Parents written consent is obtained for outings and emergency medical treatment. A written statement relating to behaviour management is in place. Current information on the local authority's child protection procedure is in place, however, procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff are not in place. A recommendation relating to this has been set as a result of this inspection.

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 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):

- ensure any alternative arrangements provided for children's hand drying, minimise the risk of infection spreading
- ensure the child protection procedure includes a procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff
- ensure times of staff's attendance is recorded
- ensure the staffing policy contains current information relating to staff vetting procedures.
- ensure all records relating to children's attendance are available on the premises for inspection

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