

Southside

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY245758
Inspection date	09 August 2007
Inspector	Sue Vernon
Setting Address	Southside Youth Centre, Kelston View, Whiteway, Bath, BA2 1NR
Telephone number	01225 423218
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Registered person	Bath Area Play Project
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?

Southside is an open-access holiday play-scheme that registered in 2003. It is held in the Southside Youth Centre in Bath. It is one of several play-schemes around Bath run by the Bath Area Play Project. It is registered to accept 30 children between the ages of five and eight and older children also attend. The play scheme runs from 10.00 to 12.30 and 14.00 to 16.00 during four weeks of the summer holiday, and dependant on funding, may also run for a few days at Easter. The whole of the building is used as well as the enclosed sport's courts and outside areas.

Children attend a variety of sessions and may attend both sessions on the same day. The scheme offers a variety of specialised workshops alongside arts and crafts, sports and other play activities. Outings are also offered during the scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children follow satisfactory routines to promote hygiene awareness. They are encouraged to wash their hands before eating, with staff checking before giving out food. Children enjoy regular drinks of water from jugs and cups put ready. They help themselves which promotes their independence. Water and cups are taken outside to support children enjoying physical play such as rounders and football. Food such as toast is available from the snack bar and occasional activities, such as fruit-kebab making, help children have some awareness of healthy eating.

Information about children's health and medical needs, such as allergies is gathered from parents. Staff are aware of children's needs and support them which makes both parents and children feel secure. Satisfactory procedures are in place to complete appropriate records for medication and accidents and share this information with parents. Children enjoy a variety of physical play opportunities both indoors and outside. Indoors they try new skills such as trampolining, supervised by a qualified teacher. Outdoors, children of all ages are included in group games such as rounders and football.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Risk assessments are in place and are used in order to monitor the safety of the environment, both indoors and outside. However, some risks, such as broken glass in the outdoor area are not always consistently minimised. Staff monitor safety issues when additional activities are brought on-site, such as trampolining. This supports safe play for children. Outings, such as a visit to the local city farm are risk assessed and well-planned for. For example, suitable permissions are obtained from parents and staff take contact details, mobile phone and a first-aid kit. Fire safety issues have been addressed satisfactorily in order to support children's safety. Drill procedures are displayed and the evacuation is practised.

The play resources, such as large outdoor games are safe and suitable for the age-groups attending. Older children enjoy playing at the pool table or bouncing on space hoppers whilst safe craft resources are provided for all children to enjoy free creative play.

The staff have a sound understanding of child protection issues. They know the required procedure to be followed if any concerns arise and have regard for the group's written policy. This is offered to parents in the group's files, along with other procedures. The established procedures help safe-guard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children experience a satisfactory range of activities that offer a balance of planned play and free choice. Staff plan sessions in general and include booked sessions from external providers. These extend the range of activities offered and include circus skills. Children enjoy free play from the range of resources put out ready for them which include drawing paper and pens and model- making from scrap-store resources. Staff respond to children's play requests and

generally help facilitate them quickly in order to engage them. For example, staff help children write out numbers for a game of bingo when some of them requested playing again.

Staff satisfactorily promote children's self-esteem, for example, by praising and encouraging their efforts. Their craft work is praised and put on one side in order to ensure it survives for children to take home. This helps children feel valued. Staff listen to children and generally occupy them in both small groups, as they make paper shapes as well as large groups as they play football together.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Satisfactory processes are in place in order to gather information on children's individual needs from parents/carers. This ensures children feel valued and secure. For example, children's medical needs are known from the registration forms completed before children attend. Staff work with parents to ensure any medication needs are known and supported. All children are included in the play opportunities with both boys and girls being encouraged to join in team games or try craft work.

Staff use positive methods to manage behaviour which include giving praise to children for taking small responsibilities, such as taking cups inside. Staff and children draw-up basic behaviour guidelines at the start of the scheme although children are not always encouraged to review these during each day in order to encourage them to manage their own behaviour. Staff generally manage behaviour satisfactorily, though sometimes small incidents escalate quickly. Appropriate steps are taken such as contacting parents if necessary, which promotes consistency of care.

General information about the scheme is offered to parents in both written and electronic form and appropriate permissions are sought from them, such as permissions for outings. Whilst some records are shared with parents such as accidents records, policies including the complaints policy are not generally promoted.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Appropriate employment systems are in place for staff, with records being kept securely in the main office for the play organisation which runs the scheme. This promotes confidentiality. Ratios of staff exceed those required for open access schemes and a play leader has the appropriate level 3 qualification in play work. Daily records show children's attendance but not that of the staff present. Staff attend an induction programme which ensures they are familiar with basic procedures and satisfactorily builds consistency in the staff team.

The youth centre building is organised satisfactorily in order to meet children's care and play needs. For example, water cups and jugs are set out and drawing resources are set out in the seating area ready for quiet play. Outdoor resources are ready at hand for team games of football or rounders which helps children engage quickly in play. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the group was asked to make more information available to parents, including the complaints procedure and ensure the outdoor environment was safe. Whilst some progress has been made, for example, parents receive some information about the scheme, both of these issues remain for on-going consideration in order to further develop safety and consistency.

Complaints since the last inspection

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. 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 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):

- record the daily attendance of the staff
- ensure parents are made aware of the complaints policy
- further develop children's awareness of behaviour guidelines
- ensure risks in the outdoor areas are consistently minimised.

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