

Arts Play Barnstaple (Holiday) Can Play Barnstaple (A/S)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY349532
Inspection date	02 August 2007
Inspector	Heather Morgan
Setting Address	Orchard Vale Community School, Westacott Road, BARNSTAPLE, Devon, EX32 8QY
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Registered person	Community Arts Network CIC
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Arts Play, Barnstaple is a holiday playscheme and after school club run by Community Arts Network, an organisation dedicated to promoting play and the arts. It has been operating for seven years and registered under the company's new legal status as a Community Interest Company in 2007. It is open from 08:30 to 18:00 Monday to Friday in school holidays, and from 15:30 to 18:00 during term time. Children aged between four (in full time education) and 14 years old may attend. Those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities attend up to the age of 20. The playscheme provides care for up to 40 children, which includes a maximum of 26 children under eight years at any one time. There are approximately 147 children on roll. The group operates at Orchard Vale School in Barnstaple, with children attending the playscheme from a wide catchment area. Those attending the after school club are from Orchard Vale School. The provision uses the main hall and various adjoining rooms within the school, and also has use of the extensive grounds and play areas. There are five members of staff working with children, four of whom hold relevant qualifications and one is currently training to become an Occupational Therapist. Additional support staff assist with children who require extra help. There is also access to appropriately qualified and experienced staff in the event of emergencies.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted well as they have opportunities to play outdoors in the fresh air and to engage in vigorous physical activities to support their physical development. When the weather is fine they play in the extensive school grounds which offer wide open spaces for running around and practising ball skills; they play on challenging adventure playground equipment and can hone their skills on a climbing wall.

Children have regular drinks and snacks throughout the day to keep them well hydrated and sustained. They bring a packed lunch to eat during the day, which they store in a cool room to protect perishable items. Good attention is paid to children's dietary requirements as information is gathered at the time of registration and recorded so that all staff are made aware.

Children are well cared for in the event of an accident. There are easily accessible first aid kits and a member of staff qualified in first aid is always on duty. Accidents are clearly recorded and the information shared with parents to promote children's continuity of care. Parents also give written permission for staff to administer medication and there are clear procedures in place to ensure that this is carefully recorded.

Children are protected from the risk of infection as parents are given clear guidance on the importance of keeping children at home if they have infectious illnesses. Children learn the importance of washing their hands before they eat and use liquid soap and air dryers to limit the risk of cross infection.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to safe indoor and outdoor play environments because staff undertake thorough risk assessments and take appropriate steps to minimise the risks posed by identified hazards. Children are encouraged to be aware of potential safety hazards and take responsibility for keeping themselves safe. For example, they are all familiar with procedures for evacuating the building quickly and safely and they know the importance of reporting safety concerns to members of staff.

Children are familiar with the rules and routines of the group that help to keep them safe. They recognise the importance of restricting boisterous, active games to the outdoor environment or the spacious hall. The wide range of resources available are in good condition and appropriate to the age and stage of development of the children accessing them.

Children enjoy the freedom of having a large outdoor play area where they can play safely under the supervision of effectively deployed staff. The school grounds provide a safe environment with designated areas for climbing, exploring nature, running and playing ball games.

Children use various rooms within the school and are closely supervised by staff to ensure they do not leave the premises unsupervised. Although parts of the school are very secure, it is possible for unauthorised persons to gain access. Staff promptly approach visitors and ensure that children are never left unsupervised.

Excellent care is taken to ensure the safety of children when on outings. Clear risk assessment of the journey and the destination enables staff to take precautions to keep children safe and secure when they are away from the familiar environment of the school premises.

Children's welfare is given the utmost priority and staff are very aware of child protection issues. Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place to support staff in undertaking their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding the children in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children have excellent opportunities to plan and choose activities which sustain their interest, spark their imaginations and keep them entertained throughout the day. They enjoy the strong focus on artistic development and use a range of resources to create individual, imaginative artwork in two and three dimensions; they develop their interest in performing arts as they have regular opportunities to watch productions by visiting theatre companies. Children also use their imagination well as they engage in lively and complex role play, using equipment in different ways to support their creativity; for example, they use soft play equipment to build a spaceship that provides an excellent focus for sustained, co-operative play for a group of boys.

Children are enthusiastic about the themed activities offered, which encourages all children to participate. For example, the Dragons and Wizards theme encourages boys and girls to engage in craft activities. Children also have opportunities to play quiet games or to look at books. They develop good relationships with each other and with the staff, who support their play well. For example, staff encourage them to work together on large art projects, they enjoy sitting quietly with one or two children to share books or to play games and they enthusiastically take on challenges to play badminton, table tennis or football.

The outdoor play area provides children with many additional activities and experiences. They relish the opportunity to use large spaces to engage in team ball games, or to challenge themselves to use the adventure playground in different ways. The courtyard provides them with a very attractive environment where they can explore the properties of sand and water, learn to care for plants, or simply enjoy extending their indoor activities in a peaceful, welcoming outdoor space.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children attending the group have an excellent community spirit. They thoroughly enjoy the time they spend together and often look out for particular friends. The inclusive nature of the group encourages all children to value and respect one another and they are quick to help each other out or to offer to help staff with tasks such as arranging the tables for lunch. Children from a variety of backgrounds and with a range of learning difficulties and disabilities thrive in the happy, lively, supportive environment. Excellent support is given to children with specific individual needs, enabling them to fully participate in the activities of their choice.

Children's behaviour is very good. They are involved in agreeing the rules of the playscheme and this engenders a strong commitment to co-operation and support for one another. They confidently remind each other of the agreed rules during circle time at each session. Good behaviour is very positively reinforced with praise and encouragement from the staff, who also

role model good manners and respect. A clear policy is in place and underpins the commitment to achieve good behaviour through positive reinforcement. The experienced staff team are familiar with a range of strategies to address unacceptable behaviour and support children in adapting their behaviour in order to participate in social activities.

There is a very good partnership with parents, who have access to a wealth of information about the group, the activities offered and how staff promote positive outcomes for children. Comprehensive documentation is used to exchange information which enables staff to meet children's individual needs and ensure they are cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children are cared for by a conscientious team of staff who are appropriately qualified and experienced. The organisation of each session is managed effectively by an enthusiastic leader who is a good role model and inspires staff to provide enjoyable play experiences for all children.

The routines of the day provide children with very good opportunities to make their own choices and engage in activities that interest them. A range of policies and procedures are in place and support the good practice of the group in keeping children healthy and safe.

All regulatory documentation is in place and used to ensure the smooth running of the group. For example, clear recording of children's attendance, combined with staff rotas ensure that children receive sufficient adult support. Documentation is used effectively to gather comprehensive information about children attending, to support the staff in meeting children's individual needs. It is stored centrally to ensure accessibility in the event of an emergency, however, this does not ensure confidentiality.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- improve security of the premises to ensure that areas used by children cannot be accessed by unauthorised persons
- ensure that records containing personal details about children are stored with due attention to confidentiality

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