

# Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY253962
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 August 2007
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<b>Registered person</b>	Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme is a charity run organisation. It was registered in 1988 and operates primarily from three rooms within Green Meadows School in the Guiseley area of Leeds. A maximum of 35 children may attend the setting at any one time. The scheme is open each weekday for the first three weeks of the school summer holidays from 10.00 to 15.00. Children have access to a secure enclosed adjoining outdoor area. The scheme serves the children within the Aireborough area.

There are currently 60 children aged from five to 19 years on roll. The scheme is run solely for children with moderate to severe learning difficulties and disabilities. Children are split into different age groups which include under eights, nine to 12-year-olds and 13 to 19-year-olds.

The scheme employs a large number of staff and volunteers help out at the scheme. There are six staff who work with the children under eight years, of these, four hold appropriate qualifications.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from infection because staff follow current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines. For example, comprehensive policies are in place to support procedures, such as when changing children, and staff clean tables with an antibacterial solution before children eat their lunch. Separate drying arrangements and antibacterial liquid soap effectively minimise cross-infection. Good routines and explanations from staff, for example, around hand washing, help children learn to understand simple good health and hygiene practices. Children do not attend the setting if they have an infectious illness and information is available regarding appropriate exclusion periods, which further promotes children's all-round good health.

Children take part in a good range of physical activity. They freely move between the indoor and outdoor areas due to a free-flow system and take part in planned indoor activities, such as swimming, bouncing on the trampoline and music and movement. Outings, for example, to the park, soft play centre or bowling, further enable children to develop confidence in their physical skills and stay healthy. Children talk about how they enjoy using the trampoline; they say that 'This gives you energy'.

Excellent arrangements are in place to ensure children's safety and welfare with regard to the administration of medicines. An on-site nurse provides comprehensive training to the staff team before each activity scheme and takes responsibility for any specialist medical care. Overall, children are well taken care of if they have an accident. For example, all staff hold an up-to-date first aid training certificate and have attended training in the use of an epipen. This means that they can effectively respond to children's needs in the event of an allergic reaction. However, some of the items in the first aid box have exceeded the expiry date.

Children are helped to be well nourished. Although the setting does not provide food, staff ensure that they sit with children to encourage them to eat. They talk to children about what is in their lunchbox and use mealtimes as highly sociable occasions. Children readily show the inspector what they have brought and identify that bananas, grapes and yogurts are healthy options. Children are well hydrated because staff ensure that they can independently access drinks; those unable to do so are offered drinks very regularly.

### Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. A good amount of space is organised suitably to enable children to take part in a variety of play opportunities. For example, the trampoline is set up in the large hall, children access a designated arts and craft room and a base room is used for general activities. Children's artwork is displayed attractively, which creates a pleasant visual impact and helps children to feel a sense of belonging. Children use an adequate range of play resources and a good range of equipment, including specialist equipment, is provided to effectively meet children's individual needs.

Children are cared for in a very safe environment. Potential hazards are minimised effectively because of comprehensive risk assessments for indoor and outdoor activities, excellent staff

supervision and good systems for monitoring access to the provision. Outings are exceptionally well organised to ensure that all children can take part and be safe.

Children are safeguarded because staff understand their role in child protection. The designated person updates training regularly and is fully aware of possible signs of abuse or neglect. Other staff and volunteers are aware that they must pass on concerns to a play leader and have a sufficient understanding of what would give cause for concern. Although there is a child protection policy in place, it has not been updated to reflect the most recent safeguarding procedures and does not include clear procedures in the event of an allegation being made against staff members or volunteers.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are well settled, presenting as happy, as they readily enter the setting and link up with their key worker. Although key workers are designated before the playscheme commences, this system is very flexible. For example, if children develop an immediate positive relationship with another staff member, then their key worker can be changed. This helps children develop a strong sense of belonging and feel secure.

Children are involved in a good range of planned play experiences because a programme of activities is devised well before the playscheme commences to ensure that all age groups are effectively catered for. Activities include a variety of outings, for example, to different farms, the donkey sanctuary and the park where children take part in a picnic. Play opportunities within the centre include arts and craft and an adequate range of resources is accessible to children. For example, they readily choose to engage in mark-making and colouring in the 'fish' to create a fishing game. Staff show high levels of interest and enthusiasm in what children say and do and respond positively, for example, when children ask for their work to be pinned on the art display board.

Staff enable children to make decisions, explore and investigate, for example, if they wish to access areas outside of their base room. Children respond well to staff who sit alongside them to talk about what they are doing or to offer support, for example, with making the fishing game. Children relate well to others. For example, they talk to the inspector about what they are drawing and invite them to save their picture while they have lunch.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are highly valued and included in the setting because arrangements pre-placement ensure that their individual needs are fully considered and met. For example, home visits ensure that staff work in close partnership with parents to obtain detailed information in order to provide appropriate and effective care. Comprehensive registration forms contain extensive information, including children's likes and dislikes, diet, mobility, personal needs, behaviour and medical needs. Children are also asked to complete a 'pen picture', enabling them to record details about themselves both in written and illustrative form. At the end of their care of a child, staff and volunteers complete a child record form. This provides detailed information that supports children's care with any future key worker. This may include details of an activity that was particularly enjoyed by a child.

Parents are given the programme of activities well before their child's placement. This ensures that they are fully informed about, and in agreement with, what their children will be taking part in and enables staff to know in advance where adaptations may be necessary. Suitable arrangements are in place for informing parents about the setting's policies and procedures and daily diaries provide an excellent media for the exchange of information. Parents' comments are extremely positive and complimentary about the provision. For example, they express their happiness in the staff team, the extensive activities and opportunities that their children take part in and the enjoyment that their children have.

Children develop high levels of self-esteem because staff acknowledge their achievements and build their confidence, for example, in the swimming pool and offer praise and encouragement. Staff enable children to make choices and take decisions in a range of situations, minimising incidents of conflict and frustration and promoting positive behaviour.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Effective systems are in place for the vetting and recruitment of staff and volunteers working directly with the children. This ensures that children are protected and cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. Although the registered person is in breach of a regulation by not informing Ofsted about certain changes within the committee to ensure that suitable checks are carried out, the individuals concerned do not have direct contact with children. Excellent arrangements ensure that volunteers and staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities before the activities scheme commences. For example, there are clear job descriptions for staff and they have to read and sign the setting's policies and procedures. Volunteers receive a task sheet informing them of expectations and are provided with a list of guidelines.

Staff and volunteers undertake detailed training in pre-placement meetings and a yearly update sheet enables them to record any additional training completed outside the activities scheme. This information is utilised well to ensure that staff are well deployed, have varied skills and experience, and work effectively as a team to meet children's individual needs and enable children to take an active part in the setting. Staff implement good routines and days are well-organised to ensure that children participate in a varied range of purposeful activities. The adult-to-child ratio highly supports children's care, learning and play.

Adults have a clear sense of purpose and the staff team is extremely dedicated to ensuring that children have a fun packed and interesting time whilst attending the scheme. Overall, a commitment to continual improvement is shown, for example, through yearly evaluations. Parents are invited to provide suggestions and complete questionnaires to contribute to this and children are also asked for their opinions through their own evaluation form.

Documentation is well-organised and record keeping systems are generally used effectively to promote the efficient and safe management of the provision, promote children's well-being and meet their individual needs. Overall, policies and procedures are kept up-to-date and work well in practice to promote positive outcomes. However, the complaints policy is not in line with requirements and does not include the address and telephone number of Ofsted.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the setting received a small number of recommendations, all of which related to documentation.

Sufficient information has been included in the health policy regarding illness, which enhances children's welfare. This is adequately shared with parents to improve working in partnership.

Organisation and safety have been enhanced because children's exact times of arrival and departure are now included in the daily attendance record.

The details of the regulator have not been added to the complaints policy. Therefore, this remains as a recommendation.

### **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 log 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):

- replace the contents of the first aid box as necessary
- review and update the child protection policy and ensure that it includes procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer
- review the complaints policy to ensure that it is in line with requirements and includes the address and telephone number of the regulator
- ensure that Ofsted is informed about significant changes in relation to committee members, to ensure that they are subject to vetting procedures.

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