

Highfields Adventure Playground Ltd

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY338521
Inspection date	16 August 2007
Inspector	Karen Eunice Millerchip
Setting Address	Wesley Hall Methodist Church, 76 Hartington Road, LEICESTER, LE2 0GN
Telephone number	01162 624592
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Registered person	Highfields Adventure Playground Ltd
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?

Highfields Adventure Playground was registered in 2007, it is an open access scheme for children aged between five and 14 years in the Highfields area of the city of Leicester. The playground is registered to provide Out of School care for a maximum of 40 children under eight years. There are 150 children on roll for this summer play scheme.

The adventure playground is open all year round and offers extended play activities during the Summer, Easter and half-term holidays. During term time the playground is open from 15:00 to 19:00 and during the half-term holidays opens from 13:00 to 17:00, during the summer holiday it opens from 12:00 to 16:00.

There are three permanent qualified members of staff who work with the children all year round. During the holiday play schemes sessional staff are recruited who have suitable qualifications or experience.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as staff have recently renewed their first aid certificates, first aid boxes are readily accessible and satisfactory systems are maintained to record accidents and medication given to children. They are cared for in an acceptably clean and appropriately maintained environment. There are suitable facilities for hand washing after using the toilets and after outdoor play and children access these completely independently. Staff encourage children to use these facilities to prevent the spread of bacteria.

Some children bring their own food to the summer play scheme which is appropriately stored to reduce the risk of contamination until children require it. Other children buy food from local shops and eat it on the premises. They also have daily access to a 'tuck shop' which offers a variety of sweets, chocolates and drinks. Children receive limited guidance on making healthy choices which means their well-being is not sufficiently promoted. Children have free access to drinking water at all times to prevent them from becoming dehydrated, this is especially important as children spend most of their time on large apparatus such as swings, an 'inflatable', wooden fort with ramps and steps or playing outdoor games such as football, competing in organised games or using the parachute.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in premises where their safety is paramount. Risks to children have been identified and minimised and daily checks ensure that children move around the setting safely and freely. Staff give high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and remind them during the session. Children understand the need to comply with rules regarding safe use of physical apparatus, computers and television games. They accurately describe the procedures for booking a 30 minute computer slot and understand the time restriction is because of health and safety reasons to protect their eyes. They are also fully conversant with safety aspects of using large outdoor apparatus and help each other to keep safe.

Children choose from a wide variety of safe outdoor play apparatus. Comprehensive risk assessments have been developed and all staff and children are familiar with them. Children practise fire drills and written procedures are displayed on the wall to ensure all children and staff are fully aware of the process. Written records are maintained and evaluated to ensure children's ongoing safety.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the setting provides all required documentation and many additional written policies and procedures, which help to safeguard children. For example, a children's daily register is maintained and a lost child policy has been developed. There is a secure boundary fence and access to the setting is through a small gateway. Staff are vigilant with regards to children and adults accessing and leaving the premises. However, a record of visitors is not in place which potentially compromises children's well-being.

Children are protected from the risk of harm by the staff's secure knowledge of child protection procedures and key staff have attended training to keep up-to-date with any current developments. Sessional staff cover safeguarding children issues during their induction period

to improve their knowledge and understanding of the setting's policy should they have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well into the setting as the majority are regular attendees. They often arrive with friends or relatives so some relationships are well established. New or less confident children are designated a 'buddy' to help them become familiar with the surroundings or to support them until their friends arrive. Staff are friendly and enthusiastic and aware of children's individual needs. Easy conversations take place throughout the session promoting a sense of fun and camaraderie. Children are listened to and their thoughts and ideas respected.

Children try new activities such as modelling with clay, using different media to experiment and create individual pieces of work and juggling with various objects. Children are well-supported by staff experienced in their particular field for example football, art and play work. Children learn new skills and develop confidence on outings such as a visit to stables where they spent the day caring for horses.

The outdoor environment plays a large part in this setting and children can experience an assortment of outdoor experiences ranging from using an aerial runway, rope swing or a 'birds nest swing' to having time to chat with friends in the 'dens' within the grounds. Children are free to explore and investigate their natural surroundings.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children attend from the local community which is rich in diversity. Children learn to play together and how to respect each other's feelings and differences. They learn group rules which include taking turns and to respect their environment both indoors and outside. Children receive praise for good behaviour and unacceptable behaviour is clearly explained to them. Children are familiar with the tariff of consequences should they behave in an unacceptable manner and they are encouraged to behave considerately. The settings core values are displayed and promote care, respect and empowerment of all children who attend. Staff are consistent in their management, are good role models and take account of different levels of children's development.

Children have registration forms which include consent to use apparatus that involves some assessed risks. Information is sought and exchanged with parents verbally at the end of each session whenever possible, to provide continuity of care. Parents are provided with an information sheet about the activities available at the setting and an explanation about the ethos of 'open access' schemes. Policies and procedures are displayed on a notice board in the entrance hall to ensure parents and all children who attend are aware of the expectations of them and staff.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at ease in a suitably organised and relaxed environment. Children benefit from the effective deployment of staff which promotes their feelings of safety and sense of belonging.

The children are confident and they invent and extend their own games and play. Staff offer ongoing support and guidance at the level dictated by the differing needs of the groups of children.

Children's individual needs are supported through planned meetings before and after sessions where effective strategies are developed. They benefit from staff support when organising rotas, schedules of activities and to access the computers and other play experiences. Overall, the needs of children are met.

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):

- raise children's awareness of healthy eating
- maintain a record of visitors to the premises.

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