



The Scotlands Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 224952
Inspection date 28 July 2005
Inspector Patricia Dawes

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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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Scotland's Adventure Playground is a local authority run playground. It opened in 1976. It operates from a community centre in Wolverhampton.

A maximum of 45 children may attend the playground at any one time. The playgroup is open five days a week. Sessions are usually from 10:30 until 17:45 during school holidays, and from 15:30 until 20:00 during term time. Opening hours can vary.

There are currently 80 children from 5 to 12 years on roll. The adventure playground serves the local community.

The playground employs three staff. There are two staff, including the manager who hold appropriate play work qualifications. There is one staff member working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children understand the importance of personal hygiene through verbal information from the staff, and signs around the setting. Staff are active in promoting good hygiene and children are independent in self care skills such as hand washing before snack and lunch time. Procedures are in place to ensure children are cared for appropriately if they are taken ill or have an accident. Recording procedures are effective and confidentiality is maintained. Most staff hold first aid certificates.

Children's dietary needs are met because they are provided with snacks and regular drinks to meet their needs and comply with parents' wishes. All staff are aware of children with special dietary needs and these needs are sensitively cared for. Staff find out about children's needs by talking to parents and recording details of specific requirements or allergies.

Children enjoy physical activity and they like playing outside. Outdoor provision is very good and children are able to play in the garden, on apparatus and playground. There is space in the community centre for children to continue to be active during poor weather. Children's physical development is well supported and this contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe because staff have a very good awareness of health and safety issues, they are vigilant and deployed effectively, which means the children are supervised well. They talk to children about aspects of safety, for example fire evacuation, stranger alert and which rooms are in use. Risk assessments are completed and kept up to date to reflect changes, for example assessing risks in relation to the large outdoor wooden structure children use. Positive steps are taken to minimise risks and promote safety, for example access to the premises is monitored and staff check identification, however the registration system does not clearly reveal the numbers of children on site at any one time.

Children benefit from being able to access resources easily, and move around freely both indoors and outdoors. Comfortable areas, a relaxed atmosphere and effectively organised space allow children the freedom in how they choose to use their time either socialising, relaxing or taking part in creative ,imaginative or physical play.

Children are well protected because staff have a good understanding of child protection issues, they are aware of their role and responsibility to protect children in

their care. Child protection guidance is clear and readily available for staff to put into practice when necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's needs are met and their welfare promoted by staff who have a good understanding of each child and their interests. Children's opinions and ideas are sought in order to provide a variety of play opportunities to meet their needs. They are involved in interesting projects such as 'The garden project' tending and growing flowers and vegetables. Children are taken on visits to talk and learn about different roles such as fire safety officers'. This helps to develop children's knowledge and understanding. Children enjoy the activities and have fun. They are able to construct, play imaginatively, make 'dens' and produce creative art work.

Staff interaction with the children is very good; they praise and encourage children which help to boost their confidence and self-esteem. Children eagerly initiate conversations with staff and talk with enthusiasm about what they have done. Staff are positive and respectful to all children and they value what each child has to offer. Children are encouraged to use their initiative and try new activities, for example camp building in readiness for the real trip out to the country.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into the setting and are looked after by caring and attentive staff. They develop confidence because staff value their contribution and achievements whilst at the club. Staff find out about children's specific needs and this information is recorded. This ensures children are fully included in their time in the setting. Staff are positive about inclusion; this is supported by their developing awareness of special needs and a policy statement which supports their practice.

Good behaviour is valued and encouraged. Staff act as good role models, they treat children with respect and clearly enjoy children's company. This helps children feel appreciated and have a sense of belonging. Staff establish clear boundaries according to the child's level of understanding, children become aware of the setting's routine and procedures and they know what is expected from them. Children are well behaved and are aware of their own needs and the needs of others.

Children benefit from a trusting and mutually supportive partnership with parents. Staff meet and greet parents on arrival and there is a two-way flow of information. This ensures children are looked after according to their parents' wishes. Policies, procedures and information about the provision are made available to parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by staff who are qualified in childcare or play work, have been vetted and have good knowledge and understanding of child development. Staffing ratios are maintained; children's care, play, space and resources are well organised. Children are supported by a routine where they can have freedom of choice. They are given ample opportunities for spontaneous activities which allow them to develop their own ideas, and develop confidence to initiate their own play. Staff are readily available to offer help or guidance.

All the required documentation which contributes to the children's health, safety and well-being is in place. Staff work well as a team and are clear about their deployment and responsibilities. Children's personal information is stored securely and detailed to ensure staff can promote the health and well-being of the children in their care.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the committee have improved information given to parents and staff. Policies and procedures have been written and implemented. These include; administering of medication to children; complaints includes contact details of the regulating body; child protection includes all relevant information regarding allegations against staff; lost or uncollected child and caring for sick children.

Health and safety within the building has also been addressed. The toilet area and wood which children use is now safe and suitable.

The record of children's daily attendance has still to be improved; this is a recommendation from this inspection. As a result the care and welfare of children, their well being and safety are now satisfactorily improved.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- Update the registration system to clearly reveal the times of arrival and departure of all children using the facility

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk