

Hampstead Community Centre Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY262532
Inspection date	03 August 2007
Inspector	Pauline Nazarkardeh
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Registered person	Hampstead Community Action Limited
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?

Hampstead Community Centre Play scheme has been registered since 2003 and operates from Fitzjohn School, in the London Borough of Camden. It is managed by a locally elected committee of volunteers. A maximum of 48 children from five years to under eight years may attend at any one time. The scheme operates during the summer school holidays between the hours of 09:00 and 18:00. There are currently 28 children under eight years on roll.

The play scheme supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The play scheme employs nine members of staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications and three are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted as the setting is maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. They learn the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines and staff making gentle reminders at appropriate times. Several staff are qualified in first aid, this means that children who need medical treatment are cared for appropriately. At these times staff take particular care to ensure that they are catering for the child's emotional needs as well as the injury.

Staff are aware of children's dietary needs and food preferences because these are recorded. As a result, children's individual dietary and cultural needs are respected. Parents provide a packed lunch for their children. They are given written guidance on the content as refrigeration is not available and as a way of encouraging healthy eating. Children are able to sit comfortably with their friends to eat lunch; good use is made of the shaded areas in the play ground to allow children to eat outdoors. Lunch times are relaxed and children benefit from the social opportunity.

Children are developing a positive attitude to exercise which they engage in throughout the day. They have great fun playing a variety of ball games. Children also have access to fixed play equipment which provides them with suitable challenges. These facilities and off site trips gives children excellent opportunities to practise their developing physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are happy in the setting, they are confident as they select their chosen activity. They show a strong sense of belonging as they chat and joke with each other and the staff. The environment is arranged to allow children to pursue the interests. They have access to a good range of quality toys and equipment appropriate for their age and development. Toilet facilities are good and are easily accessed by the children, however staff do not make sure that equipment is replenished throughout the day. The outside play area can be accessed from the play rooms which means that children are given good opportunities to enjoy physical play.

Children's risk of accidental injury is reduced because staff ensure safety measures are met. Children gain good awareness of keeping themselves and others safe because staff draw their attention to potential dangers and they all discuss the ground rules. Staff have identified potential risks and follow efficient procedures for supervision of children for example, staff and children talk in detail about not leaving the play ground unsupervised. This helps children to understand that staff need to know their whereabouts at all times. Attendance registers are maintained at all times.

Staff are secure in their understanding of issues relating to child protection and they have all completed safeguarding training. There is a written safeguarding policy in place and this is made available to parents and carers and is displayed on the premises.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are greeted by the staff as they arrive, they are happy and looking forward to their day in the welcoming and busy environment. They enjoy an excellent range of free play, crafts and outdoor activities.

Children settle very quickly and relax in the care of the play scheme staff. They have great fun exploring the extensive range of activities and play opportunities available for them throughout the day. Children are confident and are able to express how they feel about the play scheme; their comments include 'its nice here because I get to make new friends', "I love it here because there are so many different things to do", 'the staff are kind and funny', "I love the different themes and outings".

Children concentrate and have lovely time making jewellery in the play ground, here children are able to select from lots of exciting sequins and beads which are organised into accessible containers. Other children are busy in the outdoor area either playing football, drawing at a table in the shade, using the climbing equipment or making large tracks for their vehicles to travel on. Indoors the children enjoy a range of games and activities which include making containers from Hama beads, playing pool, chess and table tennis or just sitting reading a magazine.

There is an excellent balance of adult and child led activities as well as outings to popular destinations such as Science Museum and Ten-pin Bowling. Children are aware of the programme of activities including off site trips and they are able to make choices from what is available. This means that the atmosphere of the play scheme is vibrant and exciting as children enthusiastically choose from a range of activities and trips.

Staff plan themed work and topics such as Fairy Tales and Dinosaurs are very popular with the children. These topics are linked to visits to locations such as Peter Pan Playground and The Natural History Museum. Children are very artistic and their talents in making Fairy Castles and Fairy Wings are very visible both in and out doors, this fosters children's self-esteem.

Children are happy and the staff interact well with them; they laugh, join in games and have fun with the children as well as giving support when needed. For example, staff and children equally enjoy the water fight which emerged from children's desire not to keep the water in the tray provided.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's behaviour is very good, they are interested and excited by the activities provided and enjoy the social aspects of the day, as there is always time to chat to each other and staff. Staff have a great deal of respect for the children and this plays a part in creating the calm relaxed atmosphere. Children frequently manage their own behavioural incidents with great success. This is due to the sensitive and calm manner in which staff approach behaviour management. When adult intervention is needed in disputes, they are quickly and fairly resolved.

Children are encouraged to participate in the activities provided, helping to ensure they have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and increase their confidence. Children

attending the holiday play scheme with learning difficulties and disabilities are able to participate fully because specialist workers provide additional support.

Staff are excellent role models for children by being kind, helpful and polite. Praise is given freely to children, ensuring they develop confidence, and are considerate and thoughtful to each other. Children who speak English as an additional language are supported by sensitive staff who use effective body language and ensure they are familiar with key words the children use at home.

There is an excellent partnership in place between parents, carers, staff and community. Information is shared well with parents through written information, notices and daily verbal feedback from staff. Parents are very complementary about the service, they openly make comments which include; "I am delighted with the service provided", "children love attending the play scheme" and "staff are kind and caring". When children no longer need to attend the scheme they often come back as teenage helpers. Some of the staff were children themselves at the scheme and the children know the staff in their different roles in the school and community. They also visit elderly people in the community on a regular basis. These experiences help children to build relationships and develop their self esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Written policies and procedures are in place, ensuring staff understand their roles and responsibilities, and know where to record and locate information. Documentation and written records are clear and well organised. Recruitment procedures are in place, to ensure staff are suitably vetted and qualified, and in house induction training is provided for all staff, covering areas such as child protection, prior to each play scheme.

Staff work as a team, they communicate well with each other and their interaction with children is excellent. As a result they are providing a caring and enjoyable environment for the children. The person in charge of the scheme is well thought of by the staff team and she is aware of their individual skills. She values the important role played by teenage helpers and she recognises the children benefit from regular contact with elderly people within the community.

Space is organised well to meet children's needs and suitable furniture, provided. Detailed written information is provided for parents and information regarding the children's care is shared verbally on a daily basis. Notices are displayed, including the registration certificate. Although there is a complaints procedure in place parents are not provided with a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to gain knowledge and understanding of the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures and the government booklet 'What To Do If You're

Worried A Child Is Being Abused'. This is now in place meaning staff are aware of their role in protecting children and children are safe at all times.

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 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):

- put in place systems for checking toilet facilities throughout the day
- extend the complaints procedure by keeping a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken.

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