

Young Groves Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY337690 |
| Inspection date | 24 July 2007 |
| Inspector | Elizabeth Patricia Edmond |
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| Registered person | Snappy |
| Type of inspection | Childcare |
| Type of care | Sessional 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?

Young Groves Club, also known as 'Snappy' holiday club, provides play and recreational opportunities for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. It has been registered at the current premises since January 2007, although has been operating in other premises for much longer. The play-scheme operates from a community building in the Groves area of York which is close to the city centre. Children access three main rooms on the ground floor with an adjacent outdoor area. All areas, including the toilet and changing facilities, offer disabled access. The setting is open during school holidays from 10.00 to 15.00. The group is also open on most Saturdays during term time. A maximum of 15 children aged five to eight years may attend at any one time. There are currently 12 children under eight years old on roll; older children and young adults are also cared for.

The club is managed by a voluntary committee of parents and community members who delegate the overall management responsibilities to an individual. There are 30 staff employed to work with the children on various shifts. Staff have appropriate qualifications and/or experience, including disability training. The group benefits from additional volunteer support.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in warm, clean premises where clearly communicated procedures maintain a good level of hygiene. The children develop their independence where this is appropriate to their needs and effectively supported according to their ability. Some children confidently let the staff know that they have not yet wiped their hands before lunch. Procedures for administering medication and recording accidents are very good.

The children develop a positive attitude to being active in the outdoors. Some children enjoy running round the good sized, enclosed yard. They develop their skills and exercise their muscles playing with bats and balls or the large tricycles and scooters. Links with other agencies provide the children with good quality inclusive sporting activities in the wider community.

Packed lunches are provided by parents. Great care is taken by staff to ensure that children do not come into contact with other's lunches, should severe allergies be an issue. Drinks are on hand and available to the children during the play session.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children can play freely and safely because of the professional approach to assessing and managing risk to the children. The clear procedures which are shared with staff and volunteers promote the children's safety both on-site and on outings. The premises are safe and secure and door security is very good; staff monitor this closely as children arrive and depart. The high adult to child ratios ensure that children's physical play can be very carefully supervised, which further promotes their safety. There is range of resources which are in good sturdy condition. These are presented in an easily accessible way so that all the children can help themselves.

There are very close professional links with social services departments and families so that the children are well protected and their well-being safeguarded. Staff are trained at various levels in how to protect children of varying ages and abilities. Lines of responsibility are clearly defined and the group has representation on the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children arrive happily and they greet the staff cheerfully. They are motivated and join in the range of play and recreational activities with great exuberance. Some dash off to play chase with their familiar adult, and some jump up and down with glee, others smile broadly and gesture as an adult strokes their chin to greet them. They are all so excited to be at the club and those who take part in the inspection process say that 'Snappy is cool'.

There is a good range of activities that the children can enjoy at their own level. They can choose whether to play in any of the rooms or outdoors. The adults help them with their choices if mobility is a problem and help them to focus when they find it difficult to concentrate. There is a range of sensory activities which the children enjoy. For example, some like to lie in the small ball pool rattling the coloured balls, at other times the children like to kick or throw the

balls. They enjoy the colours and textures of dressing up clothes and sometimes try on several hats before deciding.

Links with other agencies further enhance opportunities for the children. They have great fun at the weekly music sessions and they benefit from this in several ways. For example, the quieter children develop their confidence as they introduce themselves using the instruments, and others develop their concentration as they learn to listen and follow instructions to play loudly or softly. They are very creative and respond in various ways to the music that they make. Some crash the symbols loudly, some tap quite complicated rhythms on the drum and others prefer to tinkle on the piano. The children also enjoy the various CDs and learn how to turn the volume up and down and how to play their favourite music again.

There is a good range of books which the children access freely and enjoy in their own way. Some children lie happily on their tummies reading the smaller books for themselves, others like to snuggle with adult, sitting close to the colourful pictures in the big books, they enjoy the rhymes over and over. There is a range of larger small world play equipment. This means that the bigger children, for example, also enjoy pushing the cars around the multi-storey car park.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children are relaxed, confident and they make themselves at home. They develop warm trusting relationships with the staff who knowledgeably and sensitively attend to their individual needs. There is clear information for staff and volunteers on how to deal with a range of behaviours. They do this in a professional and cheerful manner; they use praise and encouragement effectively, without being patronising, to promote the children's self esteem. They cheerfully coax children to take part in the activities and sensitively use quiet one-to-one discussions and clear direction to talk about acceptable behaviour, when necessary. The provision's focus is to provide fun activities to children with various levels of learning difficulty and/or disability; the staff have specific training and experience in this respect. Links with other agencies also provide an element of inclusive practice which help the children to feel part of the wider community.

Close daily liaison with parents both in written and verbal form ensure that the children's broad range of individual care and medical needs are met. Parents and staff use the daily notebook vigilantly to inform the other party of any changes to their care needs and of any events which might affect their behaviour; staff write down the types of activities and outings that the children have enjoyed that day. Relationships with parents and carers are very good. The staff chat to them as they leave and collect their children. Parents' wishes are clearly recorded and heeded by staff. Parents who use the service are very pleased with how the new premises are developing and the welcoming, consistent staff team who know the individual children well.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Although newly registered in the current premises, the group has been registered in other premises for much longer. This means that systems and procedures for attending to the children's needs are well established and effective. The staff team work well together to support the children, and clear guidance for volunteers means that they too are able to offer useful support

to the staff and therefore the children. There are clear systems for evaluating the care provision on a regular basis. Staff meet daily after each play session to assess the various activities or outings and the individual children's responses; a full evaluation of the scheme is also undertaken annually with a final report being made available to the committee. The staff continue to attend a range of training courses relevant to the children's various needs. Staff have a range of first aid and medical training, experience and backgrounds, some of which is very specialised. However, it is not fully clear whether the training attended meets the requirements of the National Standards.

The new premises are developing well so that the children are beginning to feel a degree of ownership. Links with various voluntary agencies means that improvements continue to be made. There is a very professional approach to administrative duties. All records are professionally maintained and carefully and confidentially stored. On a daily basis staff are vigilant in record keeping duties, there is a shared management responsibility to ensure that everything is in order.

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

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

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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):

- clarify the level of first aid training and that this meets the National Standards

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