



Leybourne Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	127315
Inspection date	09 August 2005
Inspector	Claire, Alexandra Parnell
Setting Address	Rectory Lane North, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent, ME19 5HD
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Leybourne Summer Play scheme is one of several play schemes which are registered and organised by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. It has been running for a number of years.

The play scheme operates from the main hall and the surrounding grassed and hard surface outdoor play areas, within the grounds of the local primary school. The children have access to toilets. The play scheme mainly serves the local community and surrounding areas. There are various visiting workshops covering topics - e.g. sports & craft activities.

They are registered to care for a maximum of 70 children from five years to under eight years at any one time. Children up to the age of eleven also attend. There are currently 69 children on roll. The play scheme supports children with special needs.

The scheme operates for four weeks of the school summer holidays only from 09:00 to 12:55.

There are eight members of staff who work directly with the children. Most of whom hold or are working towards, relevant qualifications. There is an on site supervisor and a co-ordinator employed by the council, who visits regularly.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children's health is promoted appropriately. Children understand the importance of hygiene practice and demonstrate independent skills at washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The accessible hygiene resources enhances their independence and understanding of good practice. Children have access to a regularly cleaned and checked provision, therefore protecting them from infection. Staff hold relevant information and have attended training to ensure children's medical needs are sufficiently met. Records of existing injuries are not complete, therefore children's health and development is not adequately monitored. Children's records of accidents contains confidential information about other children, therefore breaching confidentiality.

Children's lunches are stored appropriately and are accessible to the children. They understand the importance of healthy eating and discuss their choices of fresh fruits openly. Children help themselves to their own drinks independently, when ever they feel thirsty. Drinks of squash are available with snacks of fruit and biscuits at a set snack time, where children are encouraged to make healthy options. Children can access fresh drinking water throughout the session by using the water fountain in the outside area, therefore meeting their own needs.

Children have access to a range of equipment to promote physical development and the feeling of wellbeing. They independently select the appropriate equipment and organise their games to ensure full participation of all children. They benefit from a good range of fixed equipment in the playground to encourage co-ordination and movement skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children can access all available areas of the provision independently. Staff are aware of some potential hazards and support children most of the time, to ensure that they are kept safe. However, some children lack an understanding for their own safety and the safety of others. On occasions, the lack of supervision of children in

some areas of the setting results in children accessing areas that are not safe, therefore their safety is compromised.

Staff do carry out daily checks to ensure equipment is safe and appropriate for the children's age and stage of development. Children can access safely stored equipment to promote their independent choice. They understand the importance of tidying away equipment that may be a potential hazard to others. Evacuation procedures are carried out regularly to ensure children are safe in the event of a fire.

Staff have an reasonable understanding of child protection issues and have attended appropriate training which promotes children's welfare. Systems within the setting are implemented to ensure children are protected from people who are not vetted or visiting the play scheme.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children choose from a vast range of indoor and outdoor activities, promoting their understanding for choice and decision making. They interact with their peer groups as well as children younger and older than themselves, learning to co-operate, negotiate and build relationships, therefore ensuring all children are participating in activities. Staff plan themes, involving children in these ideas, therefore the children take responsibility in leading activities and games. Staff encourage integration and full participation, therefore sustaining children's interest fully. This is also promoted by children continually working towards projects from day to day. Most children are engaged, occupied and interested in the activities, resources and equipment available to them. Although some children, who do not want to participate in noisy physical play, do not have the opportunity or appropriate areas available to them to part take in quieter activities. Staff interact well with children, giving subtle support when required or when requested to ensure children make the most of the equipment available to them. The children also have opportunities to participate in unusual or unfamiliar activities through planned work shops, therefore promoting their confidence to try new skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's behaviour is promoted well. Children are positively recognised for their achievements, enhancing the positive relationships between children and the staff. Children play together harmoniously, demonstrating an understanding of sharing and taking turns. They mainly understand and adhere to the rules of the scheme, of which the children take responsibility for. The rules have a positive emphasis, for children to have fun.

Staff respect children's individuality, personalities and characters, therefore children feel welcome and play a full part in the play scheme. However, children lack opportunities to learn about people's differences through a limited range of

resources, equipment and activities that promote positive images of today's society.

Children with special needs are welcomed into the setting and participate in all the activities available to them. The support from specific staff ensures children have the encouragement and enthusiasm to interact with the group effectively. Staff use information gained from home visits to ensure continuity and consistent care is offered.

Parents have opportunities to meet and build relationships with staff, therefore developing a sense of familiarity. Information for parents is displayed clearly to ensure that they know what their children are doing at the play scheme on that day and in the future. Staff gain written consent from parents to ensure children are released to authorised persons.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting is sufficiently organised with a flexible routine, to allow children the freedom to choose where they play, who with and what they play with. Children are very settled and familiar with the layout and use of equipment, therefore demonstrating their confidence in the staff and the play scheme. Ratios are adhered to throughout the day and contingency plans are in operation to allow for staff shortages to ensure children are cared for by the appropriate numbers of staff.

The documentation is organised and kept secure, although information about staff's qualification status and relevant checks are not freely available to ensure children are being cared for by suitable staff. Appropriate information is obtained about each child and their particular needs. This is used positively to offer the appropriate care.

Staff benefit from appropriate training to develop their understanding of children's needs.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the play scheme was given three recommendations and one action to meet to improve the quality of child care.

The staff now have access to a procedure for a lost child. The procedure includes guidelines regarding searches and contactable area co-ordinators but does not give full advice regarding contacting emergency services.

The cleanliness of the setting is much improved. The toilet facilities are clean and regularly checked by staff who take their responsibility seriously, of offering hygienic care for children. The fields and outside play areas are checked for dogs mess and rubbish. The hall is clean, reasonably tidy and clear of clutter.

The staff have discussed the safety of children when using the toilets. Two staff take children to the toilet if they feel that they need to be accompanied, due to the access to other parts of the building. Older children inform staff that they are going to the toilet but do not inform staff that they have returned from the toilet, therefore the staff cannot monitor the whereabouts of all the children.

Children's personal hygiene and self care skills are promoted throughout the session. Children have access to soap and paper towels in the toilets and are encouraged to use a gel cleanser before eating snacks. Tissues are available on request from the kitchen, but children would benefit from independent access to these.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- ensure existing injuries are recorded and that information about other children in accident records are kept confidential
- provide further resources, equipment and activities that promote children's understanding of positive images in today's society
- ensure details of staff's qualification status and relevant checks are available
- develop children's understanding of their safety and the safety of others and ensure children have adequate supervision in all areas of the provision to enhance their safety
- provide the appropriate environment and opportunities for children to participate in quieter activities

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