



Galton Village Playcentre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY265949
Inspection date	02 August 2005
Inspector	Karen Cooper
Setting Address	25 Woodland Drive, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 1JF
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	Sandwell Adventure Play Association
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?

Galton Village Playcentre has been operating for 30 years. It was relocated in 2003 to the 'Do Drop In' centre. The centre is run by Sandwell Adventure Playground Association [SAPA] and is open from 15:15 to 18:15 Monday to Friday, term time and during the school holidays from 11:00 to 14:00.

The premises is a converted three storey house, which is located in the Smethwick area of Birmingham. The children have access to the ground floor and a fully enclosed outdoor area.

The playcentre is organised on an open access basis, and the admission policy is that children have to be aged over four, and under fourteen years of age. Places are offered on a first come first served basis.

There are two childcare staff, both of whom are qualified to level two.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene through daily routines and appropriate adult support and guidance. They know that they wash their hands after using the toilet. Older children can tend to all their personal needs, younger children still need and get appropriate support as they learn to develop personal independence.

Children are effectively protected from the spread of infection with a written sickness policy by which the parents are informed that children will not be cared for when they have any infectious illness. The children are appropriately cared for in the event of an accident and the setting maintains clear records, which are shared with parents. The children's welfare is protected as staff ensure that their first aid knowledge is kept up to date and that the well-stocked first aid box is readily to hand.

Children understand the benefits of a healthy diet. For example, they request 'Snack a Jacks' as a preference to sweets. The staff discusses with the children their choices of snacks to introduce the principle of healthy eating, taking into account their preferences to provide food that appeal to them and meets their dietary needs. Children are provided with a drink at snack time, however they do not have independent access to fresh drinking water, which could result in the children becoming dehydrated particularly during outdoor physical activities.

Children enjoy the benefits of exercise when playing daily in the outdoor area on bikes, scooters, roller blades and other equipment and on regular trips to the local farm, zoo and seaside resorts.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are sufficiently supported to ensure they are safe at all times. They make their own way to and from the club and are confident to move about the setting as they wish. Fire escape procedures are displayed and is practised regularly so that the children know how to get out of the building in an emergency and where to go to stay safe. The children's safety when using the outdoor facility is seriously considered. Staff monitor the gate to the play area and are fully aware of the children that leave and arrive at the club. Children know the rules for leaving the play area and the majority inform the staff when they leave.

Children use a sufficient range of safe and well-maintained developmental appropriate resources, toys and furniture. These are well organised to encourage independent access and are checked as they are used and put away.

The children's protection from abuse and neglect is paramount. All staff have undertaken child protection training and are confident that they would be able to recognise any signs or symptoms of abuse. They know the correct action to take to protect a child if they have concerns. There is a written child protection policy in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive happy, they know the routines and are keen to join in with the activities. They are sociable and close and caring relationships with adults increase their sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of belonging. They have access to a range of resources that are suitable to their age and stage of development and they are encouraged by staff to choose what they want to do and wish to play with, both inside and outdoors. Children enjoy playing with the play station, pool table, colouring and board games such as, frustration, bikes, bats, balls, scooters and roller blades. The children show and speak proudly about their displayed paintings and are generally engaged in their play.

A flexible approach to planning and an appropriate balance between adult and child-led activities allows children to play and learn at their own pace. Photographs record a variety of activities children take part in. Themes include fairy tales and activity camps such as the 'Ugly Bug' encourage the children to try new experiences such as, kickboxing, dancing and face painting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are learning to respect diversity within their immediate and wider society through planned and spontaneous activities, toys and resources.

Children play happily and are confident, sociable and secure. They respond positively to the staff who ensures that behaviour is managed with the use of praise and explanation. Children are well behaved and are encouraged to share, take turns and show consideration for others. Children are listened to and the staff values what they say, which helps them to feel good about themselves.

Information is mainly shared with parents at the initial visit before a child starts at the club, because this is an open access scheme there are no formal systems in place for staff to talk to parents regarding their child. Discussions often take place when parents are around and regular newsletters and leaflets keep parents informed of the activities on offer for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by experienced caring staff who enjoy being with the children. They ensure ratios are met to allow children to receive adequate individual care. They regularly attend training to ensure their practice and knowledge is kept up to date, however the leader does not hold an appropriate level of qualification for her position, although is willing to attend further training in order to meet requirements.

The children benefit from consistent daily routines and varied activities inside and outside of the setting. Space is used effectively to ensure children are able to rest, play and eat comfortably. The children are at ease and confident to initiate their own activities.

Most documentation which contributes to the children's health, safety and well-being is in place and is reviewed regularly, although the complaints procedure does not inform parents of the regulators name and address should they wish to make a complaint. Weekly attendance sheets keep a detailed record of the children who are present, however they do not include their times of arrival and departure. Records are kept locked securely in a filing cabinet to ensure the children information is confidential. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the staff were asked to improve the procedures for recording visitors. The provision of a signing in and out book has ensured that all visitors attendance is recorded and contributes to children staying safe.

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):

- ensure children's well being is promoted by ensuring fresh drinking water is made available at all times
- improve staff's knowledge of childcare and education by ensuring that the leader holds a level 3 qualification. Improve documentation to ensure that the complaints procedure includes the regulators name and address and that children's attendance is recorded accurately.

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