

Costons After School and Holiday Play scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

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

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Costons After School Club and Holiday Play Scheme operate within Coston Primary School in Greenford in the London Borough of Ealing. It has the use of an upstairs classroom with a small kitchen attached, hall, toilets and also the use of the playground. The services provided serve the local area.

The after school club is registered to provide 21 places for children aged between four and eight years old. The holiday play scheme is registered for 35 children aged between four and eight years old. Overnight care is not provided.

There are currently 12 children on roll. None of the children currently attending have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Activities include art, craft, games and various outdoor activities in the playground. Trips to the parks are also organised.

The after school club operates during school term time from 15:00 to 18:00. The play scheme operates in the school holidays from 08:30 to 18:00.

Three staff work with the children, all hold a suitable childcare qualification. Both schemes are run by Ealing Play Services.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health within the setting is supported appropriately by staff who have suitable knowledge and understanding of health and hygiene practices, which are shared with children. For instance, children know why they must wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. They are encouraged, and enjoy being involved in daily hygiene practices such as washing tables after snacks. Appropriate documentation for recording accidents and medication are in place. Children are well cared for in the event of an accident as two staff hold valid first aid certificates and a well stocked first aid kit is easily accessible.

Children's individual dietary needs are appropriately met as staff are aware of any special dietary requirements. They are beginning to understand the importance of healthy eating as they are offered fresh fruit daily, and staff talk to children about foods which are healthy. Furthermore, children take part in activities and projects promoting healthy eating. However, although menus are planned in advance, insufficient amounts of food available means there is only a basic amount and not enough for children to have second helpings. The menus offer no alternative and therefore children have little choice in their snack. They are able to access drinks independently throughout the session.

Children have some opportunities for fresh air and physical exercise as they are able to make use of the large school playground where they can take part in organised activities and free play. But staff do not fully exploit the benefits for children of making daily use of the outdoor area. For example, by giving them opportunities to take part in physical exercise and let off steam after a full day at school, as there are fewer chances during the winter months.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a reasonably clean and well maintained environment. The organisation of the good quality toys and resources means that children can move around safely and comfortably. They make independent choices in their play as toys are easily accessible. Appropriate furniture and child size tables and chairs are available with a designated quiet area for children wishing to rest or relax quietly.

In the main children are kept safe in the setting because of the appropriate safety measures in place. For example, risk assessments both visual and written are completed regularly, fire drills are carried out termly, and more frequently if new children join the club. This ensures all children are confident in the procedures to follow in the event of a fire. Sound arrangements are in place to collect children from a different school, staff check prepared attendance lists carefully when they meet the children and a register is taken when they arrive at the club with times of arrival clearly recorded. However, the security arrangements although adequate are less rigorous; children cannot leave the school building unaccompanied, but potentially they are able to leave the classroom unsupervised. Children are beginning to understand about personal safety as staff talk to children about how to behave in the club, where and how to cross roads safely, and encourage children to take part in role play, for instance, about stranger danger.

Children's welfare in relation to child protection issues is sufficiently safeguarded as the senior play leader has a clear understanding of her role and responsibilities and all staff are secure in their understanding of child protection issues and the reporting procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive happily at the club. They are secure within the environment as they are familiar with the daily routines and know the staff and peers well. There is a wide range of interesting toys and resources suitable for the ages of children attending. The activities and resources are set out attractively prior to the children arriving which means the environment is stimulating and interesting for children. They quickly make choices in their play. For example, some children choose to take part in creative activities making Christmas decorations, while another group of children choose to play on the computers. A group of boys have fun as they use their imagination playing with pretend stethoscopes and blood pressure equipment.

Children are very well supported as staff become fully involved in their play. They enjoy chatting with adults and are keen to share their daily experiences, as staff encourage conversation. However, noise levels often rise and this makes it more difficult for all children to be listened to.

Children play well together, take turns and are cooperative. They enjoy playing board games, completing puzzles, taking in part in a variety of different art and crafts activities and using their imagination as they act out different real life scenarios. Although there are less chances for physical exercise and outdoor play, children enjoy their time at the club and are well occupied, busy and well stimulated. One child said they really liked coming to the after school club because of all the different toys and activities you get to play with each day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy good relationships with the staff and each other and staff know the children well. Their lively behaviour and eagerness to take part in all aspects of the club is in the main managed fairly well. However, there are regular occasions throughout the session when noise levels become unacceptable; and children need to be reminded to lower the noise levels. The strategies in place to do this are only in effect for short periods of time and therefore for some children this can be unsettling. Children are pleasant, polite and generally well behaved. They understand the basic rules of the club as they are involved in writing these. Children take turns and share well. They understand the importance of being kind to one another and have recently taken part in activities for anti-bullying week and there is some lovely art work displayed.

Children learn to appreciate and value others because the staff and children attending the setting reflect the diversity of the local area. They celebrate different cultural and religious festivals and have a good range of toys and resources which promote positive images of diversity. Children of all abilities are welcomed into the setting and equipment and resources would be adapted to ensure all are able to fully participate.

Relationships with parents are friendly. Sufficient information is obtained from parents to ensure their children are cared for according to their parents wishes. Adequate communication systems keep them well informed about their children's time at the club. However, the systems

for recording complaints made by parents is out of date and not in line with current legislation. Parents comment that they are happy with the care provided at the after school club.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children share good relationships with staff who have been thoroughly vetted for their suitability to work with children. However, the registered person has failed to notify Ofsted of a significant change regarding the change in senior play leader who has the day to day responsibility for the group. Although the leader has been appropriately vetted to work with children in this capacity following her appointment at a previous provision. Induction training, policies and procedures are generally in place and mostly work in practice to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare.

The club has appropriate space to allow children to move around freely and comfortably both indoors and outside, and appropriate adult: child ratios are met which means children are well supported.

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 provider was asked to ensure all new staff receive induction training, and record the times of arrival of the children at the after school club.

An induction programme has now been devised, and sound systems are in place to record children's times of arrivals and departures. As a result, children are better safeguarded and protected.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004, there has 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 complaint 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 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 sufficient quantities of food and a greater choice in the snacks offered are available to children
- improve the strategies in place to reduce noise levels throughout the session
- implement a complaint log for the recording of any complaints made by parents relating to the National Standards in line with current legislation
- ensure Ofsted are notified of any significant changes at the earliest opportunity, including when senior play leaders change sites.

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