



The Zoe Braithwaite Play Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	131649
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Inspector	Carole Gronow
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Registered person	Southampton City 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Zoe Braithwaite Play Centre is one of three open access settings run by Southampton City Council Play Services within the city. It has been open on the current site for a number of years and operates from single storey premises of which it has sole use and has an enclosed outdoor play area. It is situated in Lordshill and serves the local community and beyond.

The Zoe Braithwaite Play Centre is registered to provide open access care for a maximum of 50 children aged over 5 and under 8 years. It is the setting's policy to accept children from 5 to 14 years. The play centre currently supports some children

with special needs.

It opens for all school holidays from 10:00 -13:00 and 14:15-17:00 Monday to Thursday and from 10:00 -13:00 and 14:00 -16:30 on Friday. During Term time it opens from 15:15 -18:00 Tuesday to Friday and on Saturday from 10:00 -13:00 and 14:15 -16:30.

The setting employs one permanent play leader and two deputies to work with the children. There is a pool of sessional staff who regularly work in one of the three settings where needed. The manager holds an appropriate play work qualification at level 3 and one other member of staff is working towards one.

The setting receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to eat healthy food and they enjoy tasting the variety of cut up fresh fruit available for them to eat during the session and the fruit kebabs that they make. They help themselves to easily accessible drinking water which is always available and are aware that it is important to drink more during hot weather. Children are also aware that they may need to sit in the shade out of the sun and staff remind them about this and explain to them what the consequences may be. Children's dietary and cultural needs are well respected by staff who, when they plan a food activity will adapt it accordingly, thereby ensuring that every child who wishes to participate can do so safely.

Children learn about the importance of good hygiene routines as staff explain these to them. They are expected to wash their hands after using the toilets and prior to any cookery activity. Children are protected from the risk of infection by the staff ensuring that the premises are cleaned daily, prior to the children arriving and also by the procedures that are in place if a child becomes ill.

Children get out of doors and play in the fenced outside area all year round, as there are hard and grassed sections. There they exercise and develop their physical skills and co-ordination through a range of games and activities, including playing in the large sand pit or with the parachute, skipping and playing football.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are in a safe, stimulating environment where they can participate in a variety of different activities. They move around freely and safely whilst independently choosing what they wish to play with. They have access to a good range of equipment which is age appropriate, safe and regularly checked.

Children play out of doors all year round. A gazebo is erected on hot days to provide children with shade and on wet days there is a synthetic surface that they can play on. Staff deploy themselves outside when children are there to support them and talk to them. They explain to children about possible hazards such as spillages of water and in the sand pit discuss dangers such as digging deep holes in the sand.

Children are protected by staff's vigilance, the routines that are in place and by the established site rules, which children have been involved in creating. A daily site check of the premises and equipment is undertaken and staff act promptly to remove potential hazards to the children, such as cutting branches of an unknown shrub with berries that has grown through the fence. The emergency evacuation plan is on display but only few of the children who currently attend the play centre have been involved in practising the procedure, which may compromise children's safety. Children's welfare is not fully safeguarded as not all staff are secure in their understanding of child protection and the child protection statement does not hold all the required details.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are excited and keen to enter the play centre, confidently approaching staff and asking what there is to do. Younger children happily leave their parents and play independently accessing all areas of the centre and all children build positive relationships with other children there. The children are valued and respected by the staff and are confident to make suggestions about what activities they would like available in the future, which the staff implement when possible.

Children's emotional, physical and social capabilities are being developed through the broad range of play opportunities that are provided for them. Children broaden their imagination by participating in the wide variety of craft activities that are available. They work with and experience a vast range of different materials including clay, salt dough, wood, glass decorating and papier-mâché. They also use small engines in models of cars and hovercrafts as well as playing with sand and undertaking cookery activities, all of which encourages and develops their creativity.

Children learn about the local area and further a field on the trips that are planned for them. They visit the beach and go into the forest. Children go into the woods with staff and have fun talking about wildlife such as looking at ants' nests, plants and other things they see. They learn to build their own fire with the fuel they collect and they cook sausages to eat.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have good, reciprocally respectful relationships with the staff and each other. Their self-esteem and confidence grow as they are supported by staff who show an interest in all the children and talk to them about their home life and their

schools. Children are able say what they think and make independent choices about what or what not they do. Children are secure and confident in approaching the staff and talking to them and asking for help, for example with making their fridge magnets.

Children behave extremely well and they respond positively to the very clear boundaries which are applied constantly by all the staff. The children develop a sense of ownership and belonging in the centre as they are involved in establishing the rules for behaviour and they remind each other about these. Children are very familiar with the rules as they discuss them on an individual basis with the manager before they sign to agree them.

Children with special needs are welcomed into the play centre and staff who support them receive induction training in order to help ensure that all children gain maximum benefit possible from attending the play centre.

Children benefit from seeing that parents who visit the centre have very good relationships with the staff. Children see their parents being made welcome by staff and sometimes helping. All this contributes towards children feeling at ease and settling well into the group.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for by a core of dedicated, experienced staff who work very well together to promote children's good health and to make sure that all children enjoy and achieve when they are at the play centre. Staff deploy themselves appropriately in order to support children even sitting and talking to children in the sand pit and helping them to build sand models. One staff member always greets children at arrival to make them feel welcome. Ofsted, however, have not been advised of all staff changes.

The play centre is organised to provide children with a range of different play experiences. Children have the opportunity to play in larger groups and small ones, such as in the home corner or when they playing board games like draughts, where they learn to win as well as lose and to take turns.

Children's individual circumstances are respected. Information about each child is stored securely and confidentially with issues about the children only being discussed between staff. The play centre ensures that they obtain all the necessary information about children along with signed consents. These are all obtained before a child attends so that staff are able to respond appropriately in an emergency situation, this helps to ensure that children are kept safe. Consents and information sheets are renewed regularly so that staff know that they hold children's most recent details.

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 that children can have access to drinking water, to ensure that the child protection procedure is included on the induction checklist and also to make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint. All this has now been addressed.

There is a water dispenser in the room which is accessible to children so that children can freely get drinks and the child protection procedure has been included on the induction checklist, ensuring that all staff are aware of it. The Ofsted leaflet about making a complaint is pinned on the notice board making it available to parents.

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 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):

- keep Ofsted advised of all changes in staff
- update staff's knowledge about child protection and ensure that the policy includes contact names and telephone numbers for local police and social services

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