



St. Gregory`s Holiday Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160181
Inspection date	10 August 2005
Inspector	Arda Halls
Setting Address	St. Gregory's Primary School, Woodfield Road., Ealing, W5 1SL
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	London Borough of Ealing Play Services
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?

St. Gregory's Holiday Play scheme is one of Ealing Play Services play schemes. It was registered in 2001 and operates from a school hall and two outside play areas in a low rise school building in the London Borough of Ealing. A maximum of 40 children may attend the holiday play scheme at any one time. The play scheme is open each weekday from 08:30 to 17:45 during summer and Easter holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 40 children aged from 5 years to under 8 years on roll. Children come from the local community. The provider is not registered to provide overnight

care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept healthy through being cared for in a clean environment with good measures in place to prevent the spread of infection. Children who become unwell or suffer injuries are given immediate attention and made comfortable while their condition is assessed and treated. Records of accidents and illness are lacking although staff demonstrate a willingness to address this situation immediately.

Children are protected from infection by the provision of soap, paper towels and water of an appropriate temperature in toilets for children. Table tops and surfaces are kept clean and hygienic by frequent use of a spray disinfectant. Perishable foods are refrigerated and lunch boxes are stored in an easily accessible cloakroom. Healthy snacks from home are provided twice a day by parents. Children's health and well being is safeguarded by the staff's sound understanding of emergency first aid and calmness in a crisis. Children are kept healthy by being cared for in a clean, bright welcoming environment. Floors are clean, tables covered in black plastic bags for messy play, equipment is of a good standard used by the school during term time.

Children are well nourished as they are provided with food appropriate for individual needs and preferences. Children are independent at mealtimes and are supervised in a choice of an outdoor or indoor setting.

Opportunities for children's physical development is good, children exhibit dexterity as they climb on wooden frames and play various ball games on a grass surface. A broad range of equipment is available including hoops, footballs, skipping ropes, tennis rackets, basketballs, cricket bats and balls. Children are engaged in running games and engrossed in imaginary play. Play opportunities are made more stimulating by the use of themes, "Olympic week" and "Wildlife week". Children are happy and confident to discuss their coloured pictures of insects and animals which are displayed on the walls of the hall. Children have very good opportunities for exercise and to become increasingly mobile and agile.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's risk of accidental injury within the setting is reduced by staff's sound knowledge of most safety issues. For example, fire drill procedures are posted on the wall and drills are practised. However, drills are not recorded as evidence of how long the evacuation takes, how many children and adults are evacuated at the time of day of the drill. Children are protected from dehydration by the provision of bottled water at an easily accessible level throughout the day.

Acceptable systems are in place at the end of the session to ensure children leave

safely and with the correct adult. Children are kept safely in one designated area and parents come to collect and sign their child out as they leave. A "telephone ahead" system is in place to obtain access if a child is collected earlier than expected.

Staff details, contact details and qualifications were not fully available for inspection at the provision. This does not enable the site supervisor to make the best use of staff nor ensure that staff who are unchecked are supervised by staff whose checks have been completed.

Children are kept secure through the care that staff take to ensure children are well supervised in each of the play areas and at different times throughout the day including lunch time. Children are adequately protected from outsiders who are working within the building during the summer play scheme. Children benefit from a key worker system allowing them to have consistency of care during the day. Children are safeguarded from any unknown people coming to collect them and are safe and secure while attending well planned outings.

There is some inconsistency in staff's understanding of child protection procedures, it is therefore recommended that staff increase their understanding of child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are reasonably content and challenged with choices to develop their independence and ability to choose. A balanced range of toys is set out on tables such as drawing, sticking, making masks, game playing and construction play as well as book reading, watching of videos and climbing on outdoor equipment.

Children play independently and in groups and display good self esteem. They are relaxed, yet quick to play choosing freely indoors and out from whatever activity most appeals to them. Toys and equipment are easily accessible along the edges of the room which fosters independence of all ages. Children make good conversation with each other and with staff and display an interest in the inspection procedure. Their language is encouraged effectively with plenty of opportunities to make decisions for themselves.

Children learn about the wider environment and gain skills by enjoyment in carrying out everyday tasks and finding out about each other through activities and displays each day. The children's enjoyment and learning is enhanced by the staff involvement in their play. The manager is vigilant in the supervision of the centre.

Children experience handling and exploring many different textures and natural materials. Children play with dough and paint and make sand pictures which teaches them different properties of materials. Children are confident, well motivated and have freedom to take part in a variety of planned activities which are available inside and out. Children have rich sensory experiences and enjoy experimenting to observe how different substances behave such as face paints, glitter play, gluing and cutting.

Overall, challenges for children to develop communication skills, independence, learning through breadth of experience and self esteem is enhanced by the consistent care given by the staff of the play centre.

There are limited opportunities to understand the moral codes of other cultures and to begin to understand and respect the values and feelings of others. Opportunities to help children to begin to appreciate their own culture and the cultural traditions of others needs developing.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel secure through the good partnership the staff have with parents. Parents freely discuss their child's day and the activities they have done with the staff and take care to sign their children in and out at the end of each day. Children receive good individual care, having their needs well known to staff as they discuss their experiences at home and what they enjoy doing most. The children's own culture and ability is valued and reinforced by the care and play that the play centre provides including themes on offer each week. Children are quick to learn to value the different cultures and abilities of others and to discover the fun that can be had with all toys. Toys are not segregated for girls or boys including the playing of games or the making of crafts. Children are happy and generally co-operative in the care of the play centre staff. Children feel a sense of belonging to the play centre, are able to feel proud of their culture and have opportunities to learn about others. They relate well to each other and their good behaviour is praised to reinforce it.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children appear settled and relaxed as the children to staff ratios are maintained throughout the day allowing considerable time for children and staff to talk and play. The children benefit from well organised care as staff are well positioned throughout the different areas in use by the summer scheme. There is constant conversation and involvement between staff and children. Children also benefit from an effective rapport between staff and parents. Parents appear at ease to talk freely with the staff.

A newly appointed manager expressed her lack of knowledge of the National Standards for Out of School Care, although is committed to developing her knowledge of the standards. Record keeping is not sufficient, to some extent due to unclear understanding of the Out of School systems required for regulation. A fire drill was practised, but no record of details was available. Accidents and incidents also need recording with signatures of staff and parent to confirm details are correct. A current public liability insurance policy is recommended to be displayed in a prominent place. Details of staff are not available at the site of the scheme although the manager was quick to confirm that details would be made available immediately.

Children's experiences are enhanced by the organisation of resources and activities

for the different ages of the children. Plans of each week's activities are on display including plans for outings. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the recommendation to display first aid certificates from the last inspection, the certificates were on display in the summer play scheme.

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 a record of accidents and incidents is maintained
- obtain up to date public liability insurance and display the certificate in a prominent position.
- develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.
- improve fire safety precautions by maintaining fire drill log
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible on the premises and available for inspection at all times.
- keep a written record of all illness or incidents to children, signed by parents.

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