

Whitefriars Centre Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	508629
Inspection date	16 August 2005
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Registered person	London Borough of Harrow
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?

Whitefriars Centre Playscheme opened in 1998. It operates from the premises of Harrow Teachers Centre in a residential area of Harrow Weald. It has sole use of the building, which consists of a gym and a large hall that is an annex to the Harrow Teachers Centre main building. Children have use of an outdoor playground and a large playing field.

This playscheme is one of six holiday playschemes operated by the Arts and Leisure Services of London Borough of Harrow. All the playschemes are managed by one co-ordinator.

The playscheme is registered to provide a total of 50 places for children aged 5-years to under 8-years. Children over the age of 8-years also attend. There are currently 13 children from 5 to 8-years old on roll. Children attend from the local community. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs.

The playscheme opens 5 days per week during school holidays. Sessions are from 08.30 to 17.30. Eleven staff, including the supervisor, work with the children. Most staff are university or college students, with some having relevant childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are independent in their self-care skills. They enjoy fresh air and exercise, as they have fun playing outdoor games, such as football and cricket, as well as group games organised by staff, which promote their physical development.

Children are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and before and after meals. However, staff do not always reinforce and implement the latter consistently. As a result, children do not learn and practise good hygiene.

Satisfactory procedures are in place for first aid and accidents, with trained staff members present in every session. This ensures children are appropriately cared for.

Children can request to have a drink of water at any time. However, their health is not always appropriately supported, as some children can go through a whole morning without having any form of liquid, due to the staff not effectively organising snack times at suitable intervals. As a result, children's health and well-being is put at risk. Children's healthy eating choices are not always promoted, as the setting mainly provides biscuits and cordial juices. Therefore, children have limited opportunities to learn and develop positive attitudes to healthy eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from using suitable and spacious areas which promote their freedom of play and movement. Children's ease and independence of access to toys is promoted, as resources are located on table surfaces and the floor.

Children are well supervised and cared for. At the time of inspection, there were major works going on in and around the premises. Generally, most potential hazards have been identified and removed, as written risk assessments are maintained daily. However, children still have access to some hazards, for example, a box of electrical appliances was left unattended in an area that was easily accessible to children.

Children's welfare is safeguarded, as the staff have satisfactory knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and the reporting procedures to follow if abuse is suspected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy good relationships with staff, as they spend time talking, listening and playing with them. Children say they have fun at the play scheme, as they get to play with their friends and join in the outdoor group games. They have plenty of opportunities to socialise with each other and the staff. Children are spoken to in a warm and caring manner.

Children mainly participate in arts and crafts activities and outdoor group games. They show interest and are engaged in the activities available. Children are able to initiate their own play and approach staff confidently when they want group games organised. However, some children sit and wander around aimlessly, as there is a limited selection of resources available. Although

staff verbally inform children of themes for the week in the morning, there is no written planning in place that shows the types of activities children can join in and the routine for staff and children to follow. As a result, at times, children are uncertain what to do and some staff need to seek clarification as to what to do next from the supervisor.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children with special educational needs are included, as there is equal access to activities for all attending. However, some children are not appropriately supported, as staff miss necessary opportunities to discuss care needs, co-ordinate their roles and assign a key worker from the onset. As a result, children's care, learning and welfare is not sufficiently planned.

Children are well behaved. Staff reinforce scheme rules and explain clearly what these are. They show respect and consideration to each other and towards staff. Children's confidence and self-esteem is promoted as staff recognise good behaviour and work, praising the children well. As a result, children show enthusiasm and take pride in their work.

Continuity of care for the children is supported as the staff liaise well with parents. Parents say that staff are approachable and available to discuss any aspect of their child's care. Registration forms enable staff and parents to share valuable information about the children, such as any specific needs and allergies. This ensures that children are cared for according to their parents' wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff employed are required to complete an induction-training course, organised by Harrow Council, which introduces them to the policies and procedures as well as preparing them to work with children of differing abilities. However, most of the staff employed, including the supervisor, do not hold the required and recognised childcare qualification for play work.

Although satisfactory steps have been taken to safeguard children's welfare, Ofsted has not been notified of significant changes such as changes to the staff and the current building works.

Some records, policies and procedures are in place; however, staff do not follow procedures consistently. For example, although medicine consent forms are maintained, they do not complete the required details each time a child is administered medication. This is necessary to promote the welfare and care of the children.

Children are cared for in an adequately organised environment. This setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The setting had agreed to draw up an action plan detailing how at least half of all staff employed would either hold or gain appropriate play work qualifications and for the supervisor to gain the required qualification to run an out of school care provision. Although there is one qualified

staff member who holds an NVQ Level 2 and the supervisor and two other staff are in the process of completing the NVQ Level 2 course, these requirements remain outstanding.

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 children learn and practice hand washing as part of their daily routine.
- implement and practice a daily routine that ensures all children are offered drinks at regular and suitable intervals of the day.
- take positive steps to promote safety at all times and ensure that proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.
- extend the range of resources and play materials to meet the overall needs of all children.
- develop, implement and display a written daily routine and plan of activities for children and staff.
- promote actively the welfare and care of children with special needs in partnership with carers to meet the needs of the child.
- ensure Ofsted is notified of significant changes, including staff commencing or leaving and of any major work taking place on site, within 14 days of the event, or when possible, in advance.
- ensure the play scheme supervisor is suitably qualified and at least half the staff caring for children have the required and recognised child care qualification.
- ensure records required for the efficient and safe management of the setting are implemented and maintained to promote the welfare and care of the children.

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