

The Playshelter at Gloucester

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY260692 |
| Inspection date | 20 February 2008 |
| Inspector | Christine Jacqueline Davies |
| Setting Address | Gloucester Primary School, Daniel Gardens, London, SE15 6ER |
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| Registered person | The Playshelter Ltd. |
| 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?

The Play Shelter at Gloucester was registered in 2003 and is a privately run out of school provision which operates during the half term school holidays. The setting operates at Gloucester primary school, which is located in the London borough of Southwark. It has sole use of the school premises during half term holidays and provides a service for children from the local community. The play scheme operates Monday to Friday, from 08:00 to 18:00 and is registered to care for a maximum of 40 children from aged four to under eight years. There are currently 49 children on roll. The setting provides support for children who have a learning disability and those who speak English as an additional language. Eight full time staff work with the children who are appropriately qualified and/or experienced.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean environment because staff ensure that areas used by children are cleaned and maintained to a good standard. Suitable hand washing facilities are in place for children to use, lessening the risk of cross infection. Arrangements are in place to care for

children who become unwell during the scheme and the majority of staff are first aid trained, which means that minor accidents, which may occur to children, can be dealt with appropriately. Suitable records are kept, supporting children's health needs, including clear details of any dietary requirements. Accident records are in place and are mostly shared with parents, however, some entries lack clear details and have not been signed by parents. This means that the provider is not always demonstrating full accountability. Staff demonstrate an awareness of medication procedures but there were no written procedures regarding the administration of medication in place at the time of inspection.

Children are encouraged to develop healthy eating habits because staff ensure that a range of healthy snacks are available to children. Parents are responsible for providing packed lunches for their children. Staff ensure that any chilled foods contained in these lunches are stored appropriately. Children's physical health is promoted well because children have regular opportunities to participate in physical indoor and outdoor activities, such as football and rounders.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe environment. A general policy regarding risk assessments is in place, however, there were no completed risk assessments for the premises available at the time of inspection. The premises are secure and systems are in place to protect children from unauthorised visitors. Furthermore, visitors to the premises are required to sign in. Procedures for the safe arrival and departure are in place, however the attendance register does not accurately record the times and arrival of children, which is a breach in regulations. This also means that children may not be accounted for quickly in the event of an emergency. Systems are in place to record fire drills, however, there were no records available at the time of inspection. Furthermore, a fire drill has not been practised with the children, which means that children and staff may not be aware of evacuation procedures, compromising their safety. Two fire exits have been identified for the play scheme's use, however, one fire exit was not labelled and the other was blocked with furniture and equipment. Although instructions of what to do in the event of a fire are displayed, it is not clear where assembly points are, or which fire exits to use, as this information could not be clearly read. This means that children's welfare is not fully safeguarded.

Consideration is given to children's safety when off the premises, staff ensure that ratios are maintained and consent is obtained from parents. If children are transported via the minibus, staff undertake the local authority minibus driving test, contributing to children's overall safety. Safeguarding procedures are in place and staff have attended training, keeping them abreast of any changes and helping to promote children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a good range of activities which are well planned and appropriate for their needs. For example, children choose from a range of arts and crafts activities such as mask making, fabric painting and t-shirt printing. In addition to this, children participate in a range of indoor and outdoor sporting activities, such as football and rounders, helping to develop their physical skills and promote team work. Staff ensure that children experience a good range of off site activities such as horse riding, ice-skating and visits to the aquarium, helping children

to develop an interest in their environment. Children and parents are involved in evaluating the activities provided once the scheme has ended, so that any future planning fully incorporates the needs and interest of the children. Children have developed good relationships with staff and their peers and benefit from a calm and supportive atmosphere, helping them to feel settled and secure. Children play independently and benefit from an organised environment so that they can make choices during play. This helps to promote their confidence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Staff provide many opportunities for children to express their views about the play scheme and any changes they would like to implement. For example, a short assembly is held with staff and children twice a day to discuss issues or make suggestions. This helps to raise children's confidence and self-esteem. Children are surrounded by many positive images which reflect different cultural backgrounds, encouraging them to value and acknowledge differences. In addition to this, children have opportunities to showcase their individual talents at the end of scheme concert, helping them to feel good about themselves. Children behave well and are aware of the boundaries set by staff. Staff are committed to promoting inclusion and children with learning difficulties and disabilities are supported well. Staff communicate with parents daily and keep them informed of activities undertaken by the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The general organisation of the play scheme is supported by a range of policies and procedures. The premises are safe and areas used by children are kept free of hazards. However, systems need to be improved to ensure that procedures relating to fire safety are complied with at all times and that accident records are completed appropriately. In addition to this, the provider has not ensured that the daily, individual hours of children's attendance are recorded, which is a breach of regulations. All other required documentation is in place and is stored confidentially. The schedule of activities provides children with variety and choice and staff are deployed effectively, enabling children to play safely on the premises. Staff are suitably qualified and experienced and have a good understanding of how young children learn. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous care inspection recommended that the provider conduct and record fire drills and keep a written record of risk assessments, ensure that parents sign the accident book entries and notify Ofsted of any changes of any adults working on the premises.

Since the last inspection, the provider has made little improvement. A general policy regarding risk assessments is in place, however, there were no completed risk assessments for the premises available at the time of inspection. In addition to this, a completed record of fire drills was not available. Accident records still indicate that some entries have not been signed by parents.

There have been no changes to adults working on the premises which Ofsted are required to be notified of.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, there have 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 complaints 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 that the accident book contains clear details about accidents and that entries are signed by parents at all times
- ensure that children's hours of attendance are recorded at all times and that a record of risk assessments is kept
- ensure that fire exits are clearly labelled and kept free of obstruction
- ensure that a record of fire drills is kept, and that instructions of what to do in the event of a fire is clearly displayed

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