

# Lakeside Pre School

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	128472
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Fiona Sapler

<b>Setting Address</b>	The Cricket Pavilion, Overton Drive, Wanstead, London, E11 2LW
------------------------	--

<b>Telephone number</b>	020 8 989 5566
-------------------------	----------------

**E-mail**

<b>Registered person</b>	Lakeside Pre -School
--------------------------	----------------------

<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
---------------------------	-----------

<b>Type of care</b>	Sessional 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](http://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?

Lakeside Pre-School has been operating for over 30 years, from a cricket pavilion, in Wanstead in the London borough of Redbridge. An outdoor area is available for the children to use.

A maximum of 26 children may attend the pre school at any one time. It is open each weekday from 09.30 to 12.00 term time only. There are currently 37 children from 2 to under 5 years on roll. The pre school welcomes children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also children who speak English as an additional language.

The pre school employs 8 members of staff; of these most have an appropriate early years qualification.

The group is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning how to keep themselves healthy through daily routines, discussion and reminders from the adults in the setting. They are encouraged to wash their hands in a bowl placed by the snack table before eating. They are able to independently use the toilets and hand basins as small steps are made available to them, and soap dispensers and paper towels are easily accessible. Children occasionally use the outdoor area for fresh air and exercise. Action songs and an indoor slide and climbing frame contribute to helping them learn different ways their bodies work. Snacks consists of plain biscuits, rice cakes, breadsticks and fruit to help the children begin to understand what foods are good for them. Allergies and dietary needs are clearly displayed by the snack table so all staff are aware of the children's individual needs.

Children are protected in the event of an accident or injury as parents provide consent for emergency treatment, accidents are well recorded and all staff have up to date first aid training. However, the sickness policy is not effectively shared with parents to minimise the risks of cross infection.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move around safely in a spacious, bright environment. They choose from a selection of well maintained toys and resources that are attractively set out for them.

Suitable precautions are taken to ensure the premises remain safe for the children. For example, locks are fitted to accessible doors and safety gates restrict the children's access to unsuitable or unsupervised areas. Staff are vigilant and provide an appropriate level of supervision throughout the session. In addition, daily risk assessments identify and minimise risks within the setting. Fire drills are logged effectively and carried out every two months. This means that children are aware of how to leave the building safely in case of an emergency. Children's attendances are recorded daily but they do not include the times of arrival and departure. Therefore, they do not accurately reflect children's attendances in case of a child protection concern or the requirement for precise historical information. This is a breach of a regulation.

Children benefit from the staff's combined knowledge regarding child protection. Adults in the provision are aware of the possible signs and symptoms of different types of abuse and know the procedures to follow if they have concerns. However, the preschool's responsibility to prioritise the children's welfare is not sufficiently shared with parents so that they are fully aware of the actions the preschool will take to safeguard their children.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive happily and soon settle at the activities provided. They use their imaginations in the role play area when they look after their 'babies' and make tea for their friends. They enjoy listening to stories told expressively by the practitioner and confidently join in familiar songs and action rhymes at circle time. There is no formal planning in place but staff use their knowledge of the children's preferences to provide toys that the children like to play with. These are varied on a daily basis to provide interest and variety. However, there is a dependency

on worksheets and adult directed activities. This means that children are not encouraged to develop their creativity and are not sufficiently challenged in their play and learning. Children do not have access to messy play or tactile experiences to develop their senses or satisfy their natural curiosity.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are involved and included in the activities available to them because the staff team gently persuade children to join in and participate. This helps the children feel secure and comfortable. A member of staff speaks Spanish as a first language. Basic words, labels and signs are helping the children recognise Spanish as an additional language. Resources such as dual language books, dressing up clothes and a range of fabrics introduce the children to different cultures and help them begin to appreciate people's differences. However, there are limited activities provided to fully develop the children's understanding of diversity in the wider world.

The staff team use their knowledge of child development to identify any developmental concerns. They work with parents and other professionals to seek advice and guidance to help each child benefit from their time at the preschool.

The children behave well and are learning to co-operate with each other as they play in pairs or small groups. Adults provide positive role models showing the children the importance of being kind and showing respect to each other.

Parents are very happy with the care provided and feel satisfied that any concerns would be dealt with appropriately. They have access to the policies and procedures that the preschool use, although these are not specific to the setting. These, and the parent's information pack, do not, therefore, inform parents sufficiently about the procedures that are followed within the pre-school. These include the sickness and child protection policies. The managers are fully aware of the complaints regulation; however, Ofsted's contact details have not been updated to ensure parents have the most current information to proceed with their concerns if necessary.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting is run by an established management team who work closely with the staff and children to enable them to monitor the care provided. They aim to ensure all children who attend are happy and contented and feel a sense of security during their time at the preschool. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children enjoy their time at the setting; however, the activities provided do not address all areas of their development. Staff are suitably qualified and are encouraged to attend training to update their knowledge in childcare. Checks are carried out to ensure their suitability to work with children and informal team meetings provide opportunities to discuss practice issues or any concerns that may arise. Most documentation is maintained appropriately to contribute to the children's wellbeing. Parents are welcomed into the setting although insufficient information is provided to enable them to be fully involved in their child's time at the preschool.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, recommendations were made relating to the children's attendance records and the provision of activities that allow children to express themselves creatively. These recommendations have not been met and further recommendations have been set as part of this inspection. Other recommendations relating to the development of a written risk assessment and staff awareness of child protection issues have been addressed. A written risk assessment is carried out daily and all staff have attended child protection training, contributing to the children's continued safety. A recommendation relating to working in partnership with parents was partly met. However, a recommendation has been set at the time of inspection to improve the quality of partnerships with parents to promote a greater understanding and continuity of care.

## **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):

- plan and provide challenging and stimulating activities that encourage the children to express their imaginations and creativity through exploration and investigation
- provide activities that help children appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences and promote their understanding of diversity in the wider world
- share sufficient information with parents, including the sickness policy and child protection procedures, to ensure they are fully informed of how the setting is run and the expectations of both parties
- ensure attendance registers accurately record children's times of arrival and departure.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)