

DAZU Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 135276 |
| Inspection date | 20 February 2008 |
| Inspector | Catherine Greene |

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| Setting Address | 1 John Bradshaw Road, SOUTHGATE, London, N14 6BT |
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| Telephone number | 020 8373 2718 |
| E-mail | dazu22@yahoo.com |
| Registered person | Dazu |
| 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?

Dazu Club opened in 1990. It operates from the Alan Pullinger Centre in Southgate which is a large purpose built community centre, during school holidays.

The group serves children from the local community and schools. The group operates at various times, two days a week in the school half term holidays from 09.30-16.00. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

The group is registered to provide care for 32 children from five to under eight years. There are currently 725 children on roll, including, children aged between eight - 11 years who attend for a variety of sessions.

32 part-time and full time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have an early years qualification in childcare or specific skills and specialism in arts, crafts, music, drama and PE. The setting receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are nurtured well and cared for in a clean environment. The staff are pro-active in their cleaning routines in order to ensure that the areas used are suitable for the children attending. Children are developing their self-care skills and follow good personal hygiene procedures, they wash their hands before eating, after toileting and playing outside. Children's individual, personal care routines are respected and staff know how to make them feel secure and comfortable. Good procedures and documentation are in place to help protect children if they are ill. Staff are sensitive and caring, they promptly deal with any accidents and record and share the information with parents. All staff hold valid First Aid certificates which means they are well prepared in the event of an accident or emergency

Staff contribute to the good health of the children by having some discussion during lunch about healthy foods. However, this is not currently extended to include parents in any dialogue about healthy choices for packed lunches. Staff are familiar with the needs of those children who may have allergies and steps are taken to avoid food sharing. Water is made available for children throughout the day and they have watered down juice at break times. Meal times are social occasions where children and staff sit together and talk about their day and plans for the afternoons activities.

Children have regular opportunities to play in the fresh air and enjoy physical activities. They participate in energetic small group games, such as dot dot goose. The timetable ensures that children enjoy physical activities every session, playing a variety of games both indoors and in the outdoor space. Children are able to rest when they need to because there is quiet space in one of the halls.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are bright and welcoming for children. They are protected and cared for in a safe and secure environment. Visitors are monitored and staff conduct regular risk assessments on the premises and resources, helping to minimise any hazards. Effective systems are in place for the safe arrival and departure of children. Children enjoy a good range of art resources and furniture which is clean and in good condition.

Children are able to explore their surroundings in safety and comfort because staff take good practical precautions and set realistic safety boundaries with children. Children benefit from a spacious environment that is free from obvious safety hazards. Staff carry out regular safety checks and work closely together to minimise any safety risks. Staff are very well deployed, they ensure children behave in a responsible way and they positively encourage older children to consider the safety of the younger age group.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the staff's knowledge of child protection matters. The overall safety of children is positively protected because staff are well informed about their role in safeguarding children's welfare. Staff are trained in Child Protection and up-to-date written procedures help ensure they are clear about the steps to take if there are concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are cared for by friendly and approachable staff. They benefit from the warm and positive responses they receive as they approach staff throughout the session. They happily take part in games and confidently explore their environment and make choices. They enjoy creative activities including a range of art techniques, music and dance. They have opportunities to explore different media, such as clay and collage materials. They express their own ideas and thoughts through drama, arts and crafts. Staff are engaged, skilled and able to play imaginatively with children. Children enjoy the homely atmosphere and are familiar and secure with the routines. Staff are very creative and encourage children to express themselves through drama, music and art.

Many children return to the holiday schemes each year because they enjoy the range of activities on offer and because they are familiar with DAZU after school projects. Children are eager to join in, adults provide a calm environment where children are happy and confident; they ensure that children are well informed about what is going on through discussion time, where children choose what to do. This ensures that children are included and valued.

The children benefit from the well planned routine, themed work and activities which include lots of art and craft activities, music and physical play. Care is taken to allow arts and crafts to be taken home, creating a link between home and classes. Warm, caring relationships between adults and children are evident, they communicate easily with each other which helps to raise children's self esteem. Staff discuss projects with the children at the planning stage to ensure that they are fully included in the decision making.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children confidently initiate conversation with the staff and develop a sense of belonging. They have many opportunities to voice their opinions and put forward ideas. Children are learning about the traditions and values of others by being involved in topic work and celebrating different cultural festivals. They develop awareness of diversity through play and discussion which reflects positive images of race, culture, gender and disability. All children have full access to all play opportunities. Children are given free choices in their play and have the full support of the staff, as a result all children are able to take part.

Children are able to participate because staff are trained and experienced and able to provide for their individual needs. The high staff to child ratio provides additional support to ensure that less confident children are comfortable with a particular activity. There is a strong commitment to providing an inclusive service. This ensures that children with a range of abilities are fully involved and integrated. Staff are committed to providing one to one support for children and do so with enthusiasm and creativity.

All children attending respond very well to the sensitive support of the staff and they settle easily into the routine. This is primarily due to the flexibility and calm support of staff to help them adjust during the session. This is achieved through plenty of encouragement, praise and support combined with a high regard for the personal feelings of each individual child. As a result, children who need more time and space are allowed this and staff work well together to manage challenging behaviour in a non-confrontational way. Children are well behaved and encouraged to share and take turns. They are cooperative and follow instructions. Staff are

calm and consistent in their approach and act as good role models, encouraging manners and politeness.

Children benefit from staff's good communication with parents in order to provide continuity of care. The staff team are very well co-ordinated, offering a friendly and welcoming environment. Information is shared with parents through informal daily discussions, they receive written information and an annual report.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Appropriate recruitment procedures are followed for the employment of new staff. All staff are vetted and receive induction training that includes health and safety. Staff are encouraged to access training courses relevant to their work with children. Regular staff meetings and supervision sessions identify any specific training requirements. The care of each child attending the scheme is enhanced by the support of skilled and experienced staff. Adult to child ratios are appropriate for the needs of the children attending, which ensures a high level of care and well-being. Good systems are in place to support staff and to value their contributions. Clear health and safety procedures are put into practice by the suitably qualified and experienced staff team. A procedure is displayed for parents who wish to make a complaint. Accurate attendance records are kept and there are safe arrangements for the arrival and collection of children.

Staff are well deployed to meet children's needs, they are clear and flexible about their roles. Induction and planning sessions take place with staff, prior to the holiday projects, to plan activities and themes and make sure staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities. Documentation relating to the National Standards is in place and there are many well written policies and procedures for staff to follow for the effective management of the provision. Some are currently being reviewed to ensure they are in line with changes to legislation and guidance. All children's records are stored securely for confidentiality and relevant information is shared with parents. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

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 have procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and to keep a record of complaints and their outcome.

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):

- improve information for parents regarding healthy packed lunches and include advice of what can be stored safely
- continue to ensure that documents, policies and procedures reflect current practice and any changes to requirements or legislation.

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