

Middle Row Playcentre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	159479
Inspection date	03 October 2007
Inspector	Arda Halls
Setting Address	Middle Row School, Kensal Road, London, W10 5DB
Telephone number	0208 964 0948
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Registered person	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
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?

Middle Row After School and Holiday Play scheme is run by Community Education in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It opened in 1998 and was registered with Ofsted in 2001.

It operates from five classrooms, a corridor hall area, kitchen, toilets and school playground in a primary school building in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. A maximum of 80 children may attend the holiday play scheme and 48 children may attend the after school club. Children from the age of eight years to 13 years attend the after school and holiday play schemes. The holiday play scheme is open during school holidays from 08:00 to 18:00 and the after school club is open from 15:30 to 18:00 during term time. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. There are currently 64 children aged from four years to under eight years on roll and 34 children under eight on the day of inspection. Children come from three local primary schools in North Kensington. The play schemes support a number of children with learning difficulties and disabilities and also support a number of children who speak English as an additional language. The term time play scheme employs six childcare staff. Of these four of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications and two staff are working towards a qualification. There are 21 staff, including the manager with a range of skills and experience, who work in the holiday play schemes.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are kept healthy through being cared for in a clean environment, with appropriate measures in place to prevent the spread of infection, for example children wash their hands in small groups before tea. They learn the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines and staff making gentle reminders at appropriate times and they know the reason why they must wash their hands before eating. Accurate and informative policies and procedures are in place for accidents and medication. Accident records are completed with signatures of parents which ensures parents are well informed of any eventuality that occurs.

Children are developing a positive attitude to exercise which is enjoyed on a daily basis. They have great fun playing a variety of games indoors and out. They never tire of football and there is sufficient space in which to play. The provision of physical activities helps promote the good health of the children.

Children benefit from a healthy and nutritious snack as they arrive in the play centre. They understand the importance of eating healthy foods such as beans on toast followed by fresh fruit. Children have access to drinking water at all times. Staff are aware of children's dietary needs and food preferences as they are discussed with the parents. Children's independence is encouraged as children help make the sandwiches before tea is served. They are learning about the dangers of the kitchen as they work hand in hand with the staff of the play centre.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are happy in the setting; they enter with great confidence and make themselves at home. They show a strong sense of belonging as they greet each other and the staff with warmth and affection and the centre is arranged to allow children to pursue their interests in which they feel safe and at ease.

They have access to a range of good quality toys and equipment, which are appropriate for their age and development. Children are attracted to the toys which are set up creatively in preparation for their arrival. Toys and equipment are checked on a regular basis to ensure hazards are identified and removed. Children are involved in the risk assessment which helps them learn about keeping themselves safe. However, the fencing of the area used for football is broken in several places with sharp wires protruding which presents a hazard to children if they fall onto it. There is hot water at an accessible level in children's toilets.

There is good security of the premises with the use of an intercom and moving monitor for the playground. Clear evacuation procedures are displayed within the play centre and appropriate information recorded for practised fire evacuation. Extensive lists of room rules and how to keep safe are well displayed in every room. This includes how to use scissors safely, respecting each others space and asking permission to take out equipment. Children are encouraged to wear aprons when painting and using glue and are quick to tidy up their own mess.

Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and awareness of procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child. This means that children's welfare is protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children congregate in different rooms according to what they like to play. They enjoy cutting up paper to make a large mosaic sea world picture. Children are skilled at cutting and proud of their work. They work at their own pace and are good at sharing their pens and scissors. Some children write out a large welcome poster while others cut, colour or glue. This is good team work and the children are working co-operatively to create an interesting display. They confidently state that they are making a display for a boring wall. Children also enjoy drawing on white boards and devising lists of different words. Today they are thinking up words that are nouns. Staff talk with the children constantly and are skilled at helping them to solve their own problems. Displays around the room are colourful and informative. Children learn about creators and inventors and Black History week. Examples include the inventor of the gas mask, the folding chair and peanut butter. Colourful flags of different countries made by the children have been put on display. These examples are clear indicators that children do their own work. A fascinating display of children's 'still drawings' is also on display.

Children play checkers, snakes and ladders, popping and hopping games, construction games and shop keeping. Children enjoy playing in pairs, on their own or in small groups. Children play in the home corner acting out different scenarios. They have a large selection of pretend fruits and vegetables from around the world which they share. They carry around their dolls in baskets and they come and go in the play house as they act out different roles. Children devise their own rules for the games room which includes 'having fun'.

Children in hall two enjoy playing pool, table football and table tennis. Hall two rules are on display which includes keeping seated until its your turn. Children are asked to be careful when using snooker cues. There are displays of policies and procedures of the play centre and play centre committee members at children's viewing level. Displays of healthy eating remind the children that they are what they eat.

Children love playing games in the cage area of the playground and with other children in local centres nearby. They listen well as the coach tells them not to use their hands as they play football. They know not to go near the fencing which is in need of repair. Children are learning to be good listeners and learning good sportsmanship. There is no arguing with the coach who inspires the children to be fair.

Children congregate and organise their own games in the hall. They run from one end of the hall to the other. Children naturally select someone to be the organiser. They laugh and smile and exercise their whole bodies as they run back and forth. Playcentre golden rules are on display in the main hall.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The setting is warm and welcoming; children, staff and parents all smile and talk to one another. Children are learning about the world they live in and the beliefs of other people. They are developing a positive self-image as they listen to different types of music and take part in various festivals. Friendship week is celebrated as well as sports week and dance week. A good range of toys and resources are available to help promote positive images including interesting books reflecting different cultures, genders and feelings. Children are treated with equal concern and staff take care to ensure that all children are included and no one is left out. Children's

opinions matter and children are confident as they ask for what they need and help plan out activities. Younger and older children get along well together and they are given reassurance and support when needed. This means children are happy and settled in what they choose to do.

Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are welcome at the play centre and staff are committed to ensuring that play provision is accessible to everyone. The building is safe and accessible to people with disabilities. Information about the children's needs is gained through discussion with parents. This means that children receive continuity of care.

Children behave well; they understand the boundaries set and know what is expected of them. An extensive programme of behaviour management is in place which helps children understand that bullying is not acceptable. Suitable strategies are used to reinforce good behaviour and children receive lots of praise and encouragement from staff for good behaviour and daily activities. This is heard consistently throughout the inspection. Children are very active and busy, therefore, their behaviour is good. Children interact very well together and play along side of each other with great enjoyment.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The notice board for parents information is well organised and contains the certificate of registration for the play centre for parents to clearly see. The manager and three other staff have suitable childcare qualifications including play work, first aid, food and hygiene and child protection. There are two staff who are working towards qualifications. The manager has a good awareness of significant changes to which he must notify Ofsted.

Children feel comfortable and at ease in a lively and exciting environment with resources that are easily accessible to enable children to choose for themselves. As a result children are very independent and confident. All staff are vetted and precise details recorded before working in the play centre. A successful induction programme includes health and safety, child protection and on-going training opportunities. Staff attend debriefing meetings every day and inset training each half term. Daily registers for staff, children and visitors are well recorded.

Children's welfare and individual needs are consistently met at the setting and appropriate records in place to support staff's understanding of each child. This includes an accurate record of care arrangements and contact details. Policies and procedures are put into practice to help ensure that the children are well cared for. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to devise and implement an incident record log. This is now in place which helps promote children's well-being.

The provider agreed to ensure the child protection policy was compliant with the Area Child Protection Committee procedure and Ofsted's role. The child protection policy is up to date and compliant with the Safeguarding Children's Board directive which helps keep children safe.

The provider agreed to ensure that the complaints procedure included details about Ofsted. This information has been brought up-to-date and is displayed on several notice boards to ensure parents are clear about Ofsted's role.

The provider agreed to become familiar with the Protection of Children Act Guidance and to undertake training. All staff have now been trained in Child Protection and have an understanding of what to do if they have concerns about children. This helps to ensure that children's welfare is paramount.

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 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):

- ensure fencing of outdoor playground is made safe
- make hot water inaccessible to 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