

Notting Hill Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	159480
Inspection date	18 February 2008
Inspector	Christine Bonnett

Setting Address	Venture Centre, 103a Wornington Road, London, W10 5YB
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Telephone number	0208 960 3234
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E-mail

Registered person	Venture Community Association
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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?

Notting Hill Adventure Playground is based in the Venture Community Centre in the Ladbroke Grove area of the Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It first opened in 1958 and provides out of school care and open access play facilities for children from the local community. It is run by the management committee of the Venture Community Association.

A maximum of 24 children may attend the centre at any one time. The after school club is open each weekday during term time from 15:30 to 18:45. A Saturday club runs from 11:00 to 17:00. In school holidays, the open access scheme is open from Monday to Friday from 10:30 to 17:30.

All children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 30 children aged from five years to under eight years on roll. The centre is also attended by children up to 14 years old. The centre supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The Adventure Playground employs six staff, all of whom hold appropriate qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as the centre is maintained to a good standard of cleanliness, including the cloakrooms. The risk of cross infection between the children is minimised as the centre has an 'unwell child' policy which is made known to parents and carers, and excludes children who are ill or infectious. Effective systems are in place to manage accidents as staff hold current first aid certificates. However, children's health may be compromised as parents of children attending the after school club do not sign the accident record to ensure they are aware of what has happened. In addition, permission is not sought from parents or carers to obtain medical treatment for their child in the event of an emergency.

Children enjoy healthy and nutritious meals and snacks both at the after school club and the open access scheme. Lasagne, salads and chicken are among the favourites on offer. Cooking is done in the centre by staff who hold appropriate food hygiene certificates. Staff ensure children become aware of the benefits of healthy eating and designate each Friday to the 'healthy eating project' when 'smoothies' and fruit kebabs are thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The facilities at the centre also promote children's health by enabling them to enjoy robust physical exercise within a secure environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The room designated for use by children aged under eight provides a suitably warm and welcoming environment for these younger users of the centre. It is well equipped with age-appropriate furniture and play resources to provide fun and stimulation for them. Children's art work is valued and appreciated as it is attractively displayed on the walls. Children independently move from activity to activity selecting what they wish to do. Resources are easily accessible for them to help themselves.

Children's safety is important to staff, and daily visual checks are conducted on all areas of the premises. Formal, written risk assessments are also conducted to ensure any potential hazards are identified and eliminated effectively. Fire drills are also held to ensure children and staff are able to leave the centre safely in the event of an emergency. The security of the centre is good, and ensures that children cannot leave unseen, either from the after school club or the open access scheme. The good security measures also ensure that any unwanted visitors to the centre cannot gain access to the children.

Children's welfare is generally well promoted as staff have a good awareness of child protection matters. They are clear about the procedures that have to be followed if they have concerns about the wellbeing of a child. However, the child protection policy does not include how allegations of abuse made against a member of staff would be managed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy the time they spend in the centre. They have the opportunity to explore a wide range of play equipment independently, and engage in organised activities.

Boys and girls can enhance their football and dance skills as well as indulge their imaginations through a variety of art and craft activities, all of which are entertaining and motivating.

The balance of quiet and physical activities suits the immediate needs of the children after a school day, as well as during the holidays. One of the quieter activities is caring for the pet rabbits housed in the garden. Children are learning what the animals need to enable them to thrive, and the responsibilities that are associated with keeping pets. A huge favourite with the children is playing on the large apparatus in the garden. It provides challenge for them and builds confidence as they test their physical skills.

Staff monitor the children well, and give good support and positive encouragement to enable them to develop their skills and abilities, such as assisting a child with their sewing, and helping them to realise that they have achieved something new. Children are happy and content at the centre. The atmosphere is friendly and caring because as well as the staff interacting warmly with the younger children, the older ones also look out for their wellbeing and give assistance. Consequently, the younger children are confident to seek support, if necessary, and express their needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's moral and social development is fostered by the centre as it works towards achieving a harmonious environment for all through respect. Children are encouraged to have respect for themselves, their peers, the staff, the building and the resources. When behavioural difficulties arise, staff use this positive approach to remind children how respect given and received benefits everyone. Children also receive respect from staff and are treated as individuals by them.

Children are developing their understanding of wider society and cultures different from their own through the acknowledgement of a range of world faith festivals, such as Eid, Diwali and Christmas. The children are also invited to attend events held by the centre, including 'Multicultural Day' and 'Women's Day'.

The centre supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and works closely with parents and other parties involved to ensure the child's individual needs are met, and they enjoy a positive experience at the centre. One of the large pieces of apparatus in the play area has been adapted to allow wheelchair users full access to it to experience at first hand the excitement it has to offer.

The staff recognise the positive impact that working in partnership with parents has on the children. They encourage them to play an active part in the life of the schemes and are welcome to stay with their child if they wish. Parents have access to the policies and procedures of the centre, and are made aware of how to express concerns to Ofsted, if necessary.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The Venture Centre is a well-used and highly valued amenity where children have fun and enjoy their leisure time. The manager organises the day to give children a variety of quiet activities indoors and physical play outdoors. This means that an individual child would usually be able to find something to interest him or her throughout the session.

Children's wellbeing is promoted as rigorous recruitment procedures ensure that all adults having contact with the children are suitable to do so. Staff are deployed appropriately throughout the rooms and outside areas. They constantly supervise the large apparatus to ensure that children understand how to use it properly and do not endanger themselves or others.

Effective use of policies and procedures also promotes and safeguards the welfare of the children. All required documentation is maintained and readily available for inspection. Consequently, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, recommendations were made to improve the safety of children by notifying Ofsted of changes of staff, and by carrying out regular maintenance checks on the outside play equipment. The management of the setting ensures Ofsted is kept informed of any significant changes of staff. The large garden apparatus is maintained regularly by a firm of contractors to ensure it is safe for the children to use.

Recommendations were also made at the last inspection to enhance the wellbeing of children by ensuring their individual dietary needs are recorded and respected, and by providing a suitable place for the younger children to relax and play quietly. Children's dietary needs are known, and all staff involved with the preparation and serving of meals are aware of them. The play room designated for the children aged under eight years provides a comfortable and quiet area in which they can play quietly or rest.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 the parents of children attending the after school club sign the accident book
- obtain permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment

- amend the child protection procedure to include how allegations of abuse made against members of staff would be managed.

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