

Croydon Children's Club Winterbourne

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY152822
Inspection date	16 November 2007
Inspector	Jane Lester
Setting Address	Winterbourne Junior Boys School, Winterbourne Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR7 7QT
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Registered person	Georgina Osei-Tutu
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?

Winterbourne Croydon Children's Club is one of five out-of-school facilities run by the same provider within the Croydon area. It opened in 2003 and operates from a detached dining hall in the grounds of Winterbourne Junior Boys School. Toilets used are situated in a separate block adjoining the playground. The group have the use of the school playgrounds.

The club is open to all children who attend Winterbourne Schools. It is situated in Thornton Heath, Croydon. The club is registered for a maximum of 40 children, between the ages of four and eight, at any one time. It is open each weekday from 15:30 to 18:00, term time only. There are currently 32 children in total, including 12 aged from four to under eight years, on roll. The club supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language. In addition to the manager, the club employs four members of staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications.

A holiday play scheme runs for nine weeks each year including summer and Easter. This is open from 08:30 to 18:00 Monday to Friday. This inspection focuses solely on the out-of-school provision.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff follow some satisfactory hygiene procedures to protect children from illness and help prevent the spread of infection. A cleaner is employed by the school to maintain the cleanliness of the premises and staff ensure tables are wiped clean for children to play and have their meals. Staff and children wear gloves to prepare snacks and children understand the importance of washing their hands before eating. However, hot water is not used to ensure the thorough cleansing of cutlery, cups and plates and soap is not always available to ensure hygienic hand washing procedures after using the toilet.

Accidents are recorded appropriately and parents are informed as they receive a copy of the record. However, they are not consistently requested to sign to confirm they have been given the information. Most staff hold a first aid certificate in order to attend to minor injuries and they follow suitable procedures for dealing with sick children. The first aid box is accessible and there is a system in place to ensure it is restocked as necessary, however, this is not always done which means the contents are not replaced regularly.

Snacks are reasonably nutritious with fresh fruit and vegetables offered daily. Children's awareness of healthy eating is promoted as they contribute to menu choices and discuss balanced diets. Allergies are recorded and individual dietary requirements are met. Drinking water is provided throughout the session and children are offered juice at snack time.

Children enjoy a variety of physical activities which help to foster their health and development. Sessions are lively with children enjoying organised games such as dodge ball and 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' They skip alone or join in group skipping and twirl hula hoops round their waists. They balance on stilts and play football. Children have access to outdoor play in the fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The hall is safe and secure and children have sufficient space to freely move around. The environment is made welcoming with children's work displayed and designated areas for play. Children enter happily and hang their belongings on low hooks before selecting favourite activities. Children access a variety of different activities and toys and resources are safe and suitable for the age range of children attending. Staff take appropriate steps to promote safety in the setting. For example, children are always escorted to the external toilet and areas used are assessed for risk on a daily basis. The fire evacuation procedure is practised with children, helping them to understand what to do in the event of an emergency.

Effective departure procedures ensure that children only leave with an agreed adult. Children are further protected from harm as staff have a general awareness of child protection, however, some are insecure about the correct procedure to follow should they have concerns. There is a written child protection policy although this lacks some detail. For example, it does not make reference to the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures or contain contact details for local police and social services.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff are approachable and friendly and clearly enjoy joining in with children's physical play. They demonstrate a good sense of fun as they initiate chasing or ball games in the hall. Children thoroughly enjoy these organised sessions. However, generally, staff do not interact with individuals or small groups as they play or enjoy their snack. This means opportunities to promote children's communication and social skills are limited. When given the choice, most children are keen to play outside. However, insufficient resources and staff interaction during outdoor play means that children are not physically challenged or stimulated during these sessions.

Children are settled and enjoy spending time with their friends at the setting. In the hall, they independently select activities from the satisfactory range of toys and resources set out for them to choose from. Children engage happily in play because they have the freedom to choose their own activities. They are absorbed as they play with construction toys and build complex structures and cars. They count as they join in skipping games and set each other advanced mathematical problems to solve. They play co-operatively throughout, sharing well and enjoying each other's company. Children eagerly help staff to tidy away and enjoy helping staff to prepare the food at snack time, further helping to foster their independence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Parents are generally pleased with the provision. They receive written information about the setting, such as hours and activities, and there is a notice board where other information such as the registration certificate and staff details are displayed. However, parents are not informed of relevant policies, such as the uncollected child policy. In addition, the complaints procedure does not reflect all regulatory requirements. Admission forms contain sufficient information to enable appropriate care to be offered while children's individual needs are met through liaison with parents and school.

Children learn about diverse cultures and parental permission is sought to enable them to take part in activities relating to these. They dress up in clothes from other cultures and some choose to take part in a range of activities to mark occasions such as Eid. Staff have a calm, gentle approach and this is reflected in children's attitudes in the setting. Children greet each other warmly. They willingly share personal and club resources and encourage each other's endeavours. Children contribute to club behaviour rules and are encouraged to talk about bullying through posters, made by the children, which offer the advice 'don't bottle it up'. They show care and concern towards their friends and older children show kindness to younger members of the group. This gives children a sense of belonging in the club and helps them feel good about themselves.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Most records, policies and procedures required for the efficient and safe management of the provision and to promote the welfare of the children are in place and up to date. However, some policies have not been updated in line with current legislation and some of the children's

registration forms lack required information. In addition, the current method of recording accidents and incidents in the same book is confusing.

The registered person uses suitable recruitment procedures which ensure that staff are appropriately vetted. At least half of the staff hold a suitable early years qualification although the newly appointed manager does not hold a level three qualification appropriate to the post. Children receive satisfactory levels of support as the staffing ratios are met and there are contingency arrangements in place to cover emergencies and unexpected staff absences. Space is organised effectively to enable children to access a range of physical and quieter activities. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to devise and implement policies relating to the administration of medicine and the exclusion of children who are ill. They were also asked to make available a record of staff's hours of attendance and include a written procedure regarding allegations of abuse against members of staff. They have taken appropriate action to meet these recommendations although the latter fails to mention notifying Ofsted in this event. A recommendation to provide suitable hand washing facilities for adults involved in the preparation of food has not been met as only cold water is available, however, staff now wear gloves to prepare children's food.

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 contents of first aid box are regularly reviewed and parents are consistently asked to sign accident reports
- ensure good hygiene practices by consistently providing appropriate hand washing resources and by complying with local environmental health requirements regarding the washing of eating utensils

- ensure child protection policy is in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and that all staff are aware of the correct procedure to follow should they have concerns
- improve the quality of outdoor sessions by providing sufficient resources and planned play opportunities
- provide a complaints log linked with the National Standards; ensure that the complaints procedure reflects current legislation and that parents are made aware of this and other group policies
- ensure all children's registration forms are completed and check them to ensure they contain all appropriate information to enable appropriate care to be given

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