

# Northolt Park Children Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY229760
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Kim Mundy
<b>Setting Address</b>	Newmarket Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex, UB5 4HB
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<b>Registered person</b>	London Borough of Ealing
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day 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?

Northolt Park Children's Centre is one of several centres run by Ealing Play Services. It opened in 2002 and operates from a play centre in Northolt in the London Borough of Ealing. A maximum of 24 children may attend the centre at any one time. It is open each weekday from 09:00 to 14:45 during term time. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 19 children aged from two to under five years on roll. Children come from the local community. There is an open access scheme run on the premises for children aged over eight years.

The centre employs five members of staff and they all hold appropriate early years qualifications.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and well-being are promoted. Appropriate policies and procedures are in place for accidents and medication administration. Children receive suitable first aid treatment because

all members of staff hold current first aid certificates. They are protected from unnecessary illness as they do not attend if they are infectious or unwell. Children learn appropriate hygiene practices such as washing their hands at meal times. They observe staff washing tables and wearing protective clothing to prevent the spread of infection when changing children's nappies.

Children enjoy nutritious snacks, such as fresh fruit and toast. Parents are required to provide packed lunches, although they are not given information about what foods can be stored safely. Staff who are responsible for the reheating and handling of food are not fully aware of regulations relating to food safety and hygiene. Therefore, children's health is not fully promoted.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a suitable range of developmentally appropriate toys and resources. All toys, furniture and equipment are checked by staff to ensure that they are clean and safe. However, floors, surfaces and mats are dusty and dirty.

Children's safety is promoted in the event of a fire. A clear evacuation procedure is in place and they practise the fire drill on a regular basis. This ensures that children know what to do in an emergency. Staff carry out a daily visual and monthly written risk assessment to ensure that children are safe and secure on the premises.

Children are safeguarded from possible abuse or neglect because staff have a clear understanding of the necessary action to take if abuse is suspected.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive to find the play room set out before them although, this restricts the children's opportunities to develop independence through making their own choices and selecting from a wide range of materials and resources. Staff plan activities on a weekly basis, however, systems are not in place for recording what children do and to plan next steps for the children's play, learning and development. Therefore, more able children are not sufficiently challenged.

Children are exploring and learning through using their senses as they play with play dough and water. They have some opportunities to practise their early writing skills as they chalk, draw and make patterns in the sand. Children begin to problem solve as they: weigh during cooking activities; count and sort objects; name colours and shapes. They are developing their creative skills as they paint, stick and chalk. Children participate well in the role-play areas, for example, in the car and home corner. They giggle and laugh as they join in action games and songs.

The children are developing their physical skills. They have regular access to the outdoor play area where they are able to ride, climb, slide, balance and play with balls. Overall, children are happily occupied and they are able to make some progress in all areas of their development.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a range of resources and visual images that reflect positive images such as puzzles, dolls, books and dressing up clothes. These resources are beginning to increase the children's awareness of diversity and understanding of others within the wider community. Children enjoy participating in festival celebrations, such as Diwali, Eid and Easter.

None of the children currently attending have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. However, the setting has suitable policies and procedures in place to support children when required. Children are well-behaved because they are occupied and staff manage their behaviour appropriately for their age and stage of development.

Partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. Information is shared about the children's routine and achievements, policies and procedures. Parents are made to feel welcome and their opinions matter as they are encouraged to make suggestions and comments about the provision.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation of the setting is generally satisfactory. There are appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures in place and children are cared for by staff with suitable child care qualifications. Some effective communication systems are in place, for example, staff and planning meetings. The setting has most of the required legal documents relating to the National Standards in place. However, the attendance register does not show the arrival and departure times of the children.

Children are happy and they are occupied by the activities on offer, although planning and assessment systems are not refined. A key person system is not in place to fully promote children's well-being on a daily basis and to ensure that information is exchanged with parents. Children share warm relationships with staff who are kind and caring and they are happily engaged in play.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the setting was required to: provide snacks that are healthy and nutritious; improve the fire safety precautions by ensuring that a smoke alarm is appropriately located; remove the graffiti from the outside of the premises; enhance activities that promote language and mathematical thinking; and to ensure the provision of suitable contingency plans for staff absences to enable staffing ratios to be met at all times and staff to take their lunch breaks.

Children now enjoy healthy and nutritious snacks, such as fresh fruit. Smoke alarms are appropriately installed and the staff continue to remove graffiti from the outside of the premises. Contingency plans are now in place to enable staffing ratios to be met at all times. Staff plan

a range of activities to promote children's language and mathematical thinking. As a result, the safety, care and development of the children has improved.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration 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 those responsible for preparation and handling of food are fully aware of, and comply with, regulations relating to food safety and hygiene
- provide information for parents about what foods can be stored safely in lunch boxes
- ensure the premises are maintained to a suitable level of cleanliness
- ensure every child is allocated a key worker who is responsible for their well-being on a daily basis and to ensure that information is exchanged with parents
- develop a system for registering children's hours of attendance on a daily basis
- develop systems for planning, recording what children do and use staff observations to plan next steps for the children's play, learning and development.

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)