

Sun and Moon Playcare Scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY255363
Inspection date	26 October 2007
Inspector	Marcia Robinson
Setting Address	Ripple Junior & Infant School, Suffolk Road, Barking, Essex, IG11 7QS
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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?

The Sun and Moon Play scheme is a privately owned after school and holiday play scheme. It opened in 2002. It was originally situated in a porta- cabin within the playground of Ripple Infants school in Barking although, they are currently using a temporary classroom until their new area in the dining hall is ready for use. A maximum of 44 children may attend the play scheme at any one time. The after school club is open each weekday from 15:00 to 18:00 during term time. The holiday play scheme is open from 08:00 to 18:00 during the school holidays. All children share three to 11 years on roll, attending for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language, although there are none currently on roll.

The play scheme employs seven staff, four work with the children during the session. Seven are qualified, including the manager who hold appropriate early years qualifications to National Vocational Level 2 or 3. Two staff are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted sufficiently well, because staff encourage them to wash their hands after outdoor play and before meals, although they share one towel for hand drying, which means that reduces the risk of infection. Parents provide packed lunches for their children, although the group supplement this by providing children with a satisfactory range of healthy snacks, including fresh fruit and toast. In addition, the group ensure that extra provisions of food are kept on the premises, in case children are hungry or forget their packed lunch at home. Children have less opportunities to learn about the benefits of healthy eating, because staff do not talk to them about foods which are good or bad for them and parents are not provided with written guidelines on healthy ideas for packed lunches. Children remain hydrated, because they have free access to fresh drinking water throughout the day. Their individual dietary needs are met as parents discuss their wishes with staff and a record of allergies is also kept. Children benefit from a hygienic environment that is regularly checked for cleanliness, thus promoting their welfare. Children are safe in the event of an accident as staff immediately tend to them appropriately as a sufficient number of them hold a current first aid certificate. Children's physical development is encouraged as they have access to a suitable range of outdoor equipment and enjoy participating in various forms of physical exercise, everyday, when they are playing both indoors and outdoors in the school playground, using balls for throwing, kicking and catching, running around and taking part in team games and using the dance mat, indoors.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in premises that are secure and where children and their parents are welcomed individually by staff. Children's safety is adequately promoted because staff are well deployed, ensuring children are supervised at all times. The children are able to explore their surroundings with confidence, because the group have stored potentially hazardous items out of their reach. However, although the group have undergone changes to the space originally being used by the children, whereby they are now using a classroom within the school as a temporary arrangement, while their new space in the dining hall of the school is cleaned and made ready for use. Although, the group have taken some steps to ensure children's safety during this time of change, they have not identified all potential risks to children, such as some exposed electrical sockets are accessible to children. Furthermore, the heating system is not in working order and so the premises are not maintained to an appropriate temperature. Children are protected should safeguarding concerns arise, as the manager and staff have a good understanding of what to look out for and know how to make an appropriate referral in the event of any child protection concerns. Suitable records are kept, although not all details are clearly recorded, in the staff attendance register, so that the group can be fully accountable for children's safety and welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and relaxed and quickly settle to an activity of their choice. They gain confidence through consistent routines and close relationships with the friendly and caring

staff, who are aware of their individual needs and spend time talking and playing with them. They are provided with a sufficient, varied range of activities which are laid out by staff on floor and table level enabling children to spread out and play spontaneously with toys such as role play resources. Children move between activities and self-select resources from low level storage units, thus developing their self help skills. Children work well in pairs or in a small groups, negotiating their ideas, sharing equipment and taking turns well. There is a calm and productive atmosphere and sufficient staffing ratios enable the staff to give plenty of attention and support to children, when necessary, for example, when a younger child wants to talk about her drawings, staff listen and are interested in what she has to say. Children's self-help skills and independence is encouraged and they manage to finish tasks for themselves, such as opening the wrappers from their packed lunch, putting on their own coats and washing their hands. Children are skilled at and concentrate well on their activities, such as playing computer games, colouring and drawing intricate pictures with pencils and felt tip pens. However, the nature of some of the computer games are not suitable or appropriate for young children, because the images show characters using weapons, which impacts on children's enjoyment and achievement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from toys and materials that reflect various communities and this helps them to gain some understanding of the world. Although there is a limited range of resources that reflect positive images of disability. Children are well behaved, they negotiate, share and take turns, particularly when playing in small groups. Staff encourage acceptable behaviour by the use of boundaries and positive approaches to managing behaviour. For example, staff consistently praise children for their efforts and achievements and have involved the children in devising a list of the club's rules, which are displayed. A clear written behaviour policy is in place and shared with parents, to ensure consistency in their approach. Children receive consistent care as staff discuss and record their parent's wishes before they start to attend and they also engage in daily chats on collection. Staff have an understanding of the need to provide individual care and activities where a child has a learning disability so that their needs are met. Children benefit from staff discussing their needs with their parent and through them knowing where to go for advice and support in providing appropriate care and support to individual children. Whilst the manager knows what to do in the event of a complaint, the written policy does not include Ofsted details, ensuring everyone is well informed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a generally well organised after school club and holiday play scheme. Their routine is flexible and they are well cared for, by a team of suitable, experienced and qualified staff who work well together as a team. Staff are aware of children's individual needs and have created a generally well -organised environment. However, there are some aspects of children's health, safety and enjoyment that require improving. Overall, the setting is steadily promoting positive outcomes for children and are keen to make all the necessary improvements. All of the documentation required to contribute to children's health, safety and well being are in place, maintaining confidentiality. The required records are all in place, although the attendance register for staff is not maintained in line with the National Standards, so to ensure children's welfare is fully promoted. Despite this, the policies and procedures available are

mostly well documented, with the exception of the complaints procedure that requires updating. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The child protection statement now includes the procedure for allegations of abuse made against staff and all staff are fully aware of and implement a consistent approach when managing children's behaviour. Therefore, promoting children's welfare and the organisation at the setting.

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):

- further develop children's knowledge of healthy eating
- improve children's health, by reducing the risk of cross infection during hand washing routines and provide more opportunities for children to learn about the benefits of healthy eating
- improve children's safety, by ensuring any rooms used by children are maintained to an adequate temperature and that all new rooms/areas are made safe before children's use
- ensure children are not exposed to materials that portray negative forms of violence
- continue to develop the range of resources that reflects positive images, including disability
- improve documentation, by including all necessary details in the attendance register for staff and by updating the complaints procedure with the contact details for Ofsted

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