

# Plot 10 Community Play Project

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	116341
<b>Inspection date</b>	25 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Siobhan O'Callaghan
<b>Setting Address</b>	128 Chalton Street, London, NW1 1RX
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<b>Registered person</b>	Plot 10 Community Play Project
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Plot 10 Community Play Project operates a breakfast club, after school club and holiday play scheme, and has been registered since 1992. The provision operates from a single storey wooden chalet style building in Somers Town, in the borough of Camden. The group have sole access to the accommodation along with secure extensive outdoor play provision. A maximum of 16 children may attend the breakfast and after school clubs at any one time and a maximum of 32 children may attend the holiday play scheme at any one time. The breakfast and after school club is open during school term time, Monday to Friday from 07:45 until 09:15 and from 15:30 until 18:00. The holiday play scheme operates throughout the school holidays, Monday to Friday from 08:30 until 18:00.

There are currently 45 children from five years to under eight years on roll. The children who attend come from the local catchment area. The provision offers a collection service from four local schools so that children can be escorted safely to the after school club. The provision supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The group employs four staff within the breakfast club and five staff to work within the after school club. Additional staff are employed for holiday play schemes. The number of staff on

duty depends on the number of children booked into the provisions. The majority of staff hold early years play-work qualifications.

The play scheme receives support from the local authority. They have been working towards the Camden and Westminster Quality Assurance Scheme of which they passed in December 2006 and updated again in December 2007. This has granted them the status as a centre of excellence.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy as the staff team follow appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines. Staff ensure that tables are cleaned down thoroughly prior to children eating their tea, and a tablecloth is placed on the tables to create a cosy and welcoming session for children. Individual bowls, cups and cutlery are available to promote children's independence and personal hygiene. All children wash their hands before eating food and are reminded of the need to do so at other times, for example, after visiting the bathroom and before helping to serve food from the kitchen. Children with special dietary requirements including those with any allergies have their needs well met. The staff team are cautious with the foods that are prepared and offered within the setting. All staff have received training in administering epee-pens thus in an emergency situation these children's needs are managed well. However, parental permission to allow staff to administer medication is not clear and robust thus this may compromise children's welfare.

Children are appropriately taken care of should they have an accident or become ill whilst they are at the setting as there is always a qualified first aid trained person on site. A positive sickness policy helps to reduce the spread of infection. All appropriate documentation to record accidents and to share this information with parents is in place. However, parents do not consistently sign these records to acknowledge that they have been informed, this potentially hinders children's welfare particularly if they have had a head injury and parents may not have been informed. Children are learning positive attitudes towards healthy living. They enjoy eating hot noodles and adding their own soya sauce to give these flavour. They demonstrate their awareness of healthy foods as they talk about their favourite teas, such as chopped cucumber, carrots, pita and humus. They are keen to discuss how they have been involved in the choices of food available within the club and how this has been very exciting for them. Children independently help themselves to water, orange and blackcurrant squash which helps them to remain hydrated throughout the session. Some children are very keen to finish their food so that they can go outside to play, they are reminded of the need to eat slowly and to give their bodies a chance to digest their food.

Children have excellent opportunities to get fresh air and take part in daily physical activities as they access a challenging and stimulating outside play area. Children are keen to play ball games including football, both with their peers and with the adults who take care of them. Weather permitting children access large wooden climbing apparatus, rope swings, climbing nets and balancing beams within the grassed area of the garden. They move freely and confidently within all areas available to them, there is a positive emphasis on free-flow which encourages children to utilise the outside provision as much as possible. Children who want to relax have a designated area available to them, this is appropriately furnished with soft seating.

They can access a range of fictional and information books within this area, or choose to watch a film of their choice.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. They are secure and safe due to effective risk assessments that highlight any issues giving cause for concern. Large wooden climbing apparatus is cordoned off in wet weather due to the hazards of slipping and thus causing possible injury to the children. This large equipment has annual health and safety inspections from an outside agency to ensure that it continues to be safe for children to use. A good focus on safety encourages children to think about their own personal safety within the setting. Every holiday play scheme they are reminded of the health and safety rules within the setting along with the procedures for emergency evacuation. Children are consistently reminded not to run inside and to be careful when they are playing pool as the cues could potentially hurt someone if they are not handled with due care. They learn about keeping safe when on outings as they are reminded about keeping close and not wandering off. Staff highlight 'stranger danger' issues and ensure that children are supervised appropriately when using public conveniences. There are effective policies and procedures in place to manage children safely on outings including the emphasis on high adult to child ratios to ensure efficient supervision of children at all times.

Children access a good range of safe and suitable equipment. Resources are continually monitored and updated to improve choices for children, this is supported by continual fundraising events. Children are protected from harm as staff have a good knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. They are confident in the referral process and liaise closely with outside professionals when they are concerned about the welfare of children. All staff have induction training within this area and ongoing training is pursued by key members of staff who take on the role of designated child protection liaison officers. The setting ensures effective vetting and recruitment procedures are instigated for all staff working within the setting, thus ensuring they are appropriately skilled, experienced and suitable to work with children.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled within this provision. They arrive eagerly and are greeted warmly by the staff team. It is evident that they are familiar with the routine of the setting as they sit down and wait for the register to be called before going off to access their free chosen activities. They wait patiently for all their peers to arrive as children attend four different schools within the local community. Some children decide to use this time to engage in drawing and colouring activities whilst some read their school books. Children are excited to show off their different language skills as they respond to the register in a variety of languages. They receive lots of praise and encouragement from staff. Children who have a birthday or who have recently celebrated a birthday receive congratulations and well wishes from everyone. This is also a time for sharing and listening to news. Children are extremely vocal and demonstrate their confidence to communicate in a large group situation. They are good listeners and show due respect to their peers and adults as they wait their turn to talk.

Children show a keen interest in what they do as they concentrate for long periods of time as they create badges with modelling dough. They demonstrate how they have also made magnets,

broaches and necklaces with a variety of different creative materials. Children independently access all areas of their environment, they choose from a good range of activities and experiences both inside and out within the garden area. Children are very keen to play board games and to practise their skills at the pool table. They effectively utilise the two computers available to them. Some children request support with their reading homework whilst others want help to download information from the intranet to support them with their topic work. Children are keen to talk about their school projects and show particular interest in their current topic. They are looking at Somers Town and its local history, which is where they live. Staff are very helpful and supportive to children's individual needs as they follow their choices with regards to the activities they wish to pursue.

Children have established positive relationships with both their peers and the staff team. They confidently approach staff for support and attention and thrive on the positive praise they receive. They comfortably converse with staff and enjoy participating in adult-led creative activities as well as team games. Children are on the whole very well behaved. They play cooperatively with each other as they share resources and take turns fairly within games. Older children demonstrate a caring and nurturing attitude towards the younger children attending, as they support them sensitively within their play. Children have created their own positive rules to be followed within the setting, they have imaginatively used these to create screen savers for their computer which aid as a continual reminder of how we all should behave.

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

The provision is good.

All children are made very welcome into the setting and their individual needs are extremely well met. Children are cared for in an inclusive environment where their many home backgrounds and cultures are celebrated and valued. Bright displays of flags from around the world and maps which demonstrate where children originate from, give them a sense of belonging and worth. Children enjoy observing photographs of themselves which are attractively displayed along with some of their artwork. They have good opportunities to access a positive range of multicultural books and artefacts which support them in learning about others and valuing differences. Through planned activities children celebrate and learn about many festivals such as Ramadam, Eid, Diwali and Christian festivals such as Christmas and Easter.

Children's sense of belonging is reinforced through the emphasis that this is 'their club'. They are keen to talk about their roles as they demonstrate how they have made improvements to the setting as representatives on the children's forum. Children have expressed that they wanted improved food options available to them at tea time and this has now come to fruition. They are excited to talk of their success in this area along with ideas of how they would like to improve certain areas for the future. Children demonstrate how they feel secure and protected within this setting as they openly talk about how they approach staff if they are feeling sad or upset about anything. All children are valued as individuals as their achievements are recognised. Each week two children receive a special merit award which can be given for anything from good behaviour to being helpful to others. This is a time where they are encouraged to recognise each others strengths and to acknowledge that we all have special qualities. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are fully supported and included within all aspects of the club.

Children benefit from a strong partnership with parents that has continually evolved over the years. Parents are very much a part of this setting as they sit on the management committee and have a say in how this provision is run. Parents express their satisfaction with the care their

children receive as they comment on how caring the staff team are, and how hard they work to make this an exciting and stimulating place for children to be. Working parents rely on this service and express that they leave their children in the confidence that they are being cared for in a safe and child friendly environment. This is evident as children openly inform their parents that they do not want to go home yet, as they are having such a good time.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by a warm and committed team of staff who demonstrate an enthusiasm for the future development and progression of this setting. They are calm and patient with the children and demonstrate a genuine interest in their lives not only within the setting but at home as well. Staff encourage children to talk about their weekends and the things that they like to do when they are at home. They give children good opportunities to talk openly as they demonstrate that they are happy to listen. Staff are well deployed as they spend all their time directly working with the children and supporting them in their self-chosen pursuits. They monitor how many children are working both inside and out in the garden to ensure that staff deployment is effective to meet their needs. Children benefit from a child friendly environment which is organised to promote their independence and their confidence to make choices about what they would like to do.

There are some good policies and procedures in place to promote children's good health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. Effective vetting procedures ensure that staff undergo stringent checks before they are allowed to work unsupervised with children. All staff receive prior induction in health and safety matters to ensure that they are familiar with the setting's policies and procedures which in turn helps them to safeguard children. Staff ensure that children's individual records are always readily accessible and are taken on outings so that appropriate care can be given in an emergency situation. However, documentation requiring parental involvement is not consistently maintained and the availability of all staff's records are not entirely complete. Therefore aspects of children's welfare may be compromised.

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 provision were asked to update their complaints procedure to ensure that this contained information regarding the regulator. This information is now included within the parents' information and can be accessed close to their parents' notice board. Therefore parents are now well-informed about the complaints process.

## **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 that parents give clear prior written permission to administer any medication to children
- ensure parents sign all accident records
- ensure individual records are kept on the premises containing information about all staff's training and qualifications.

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)