

## ELHAP Special Needs Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	128527
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jennifer Liverpool
<b>Setting Address</b>	119 Roding Lane North, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 8NA
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<b>Registered person</b>	ELHAP (Special Needs Adventure Playground)
<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

ELHAP (A Special Needs Adventure Playground) opened in 1977. It is one of seven adventure playgrounds for children with learning difficulties and disabilities and offers adventure opportunities to children and young people from the community. It is a registered charity managed by a board of trustees. The holiday play scheme is situated in the London borough of Redbridge and operates from an open plan building with disability access and an adjacent soft play room within the grounds. The holiday play scheme is open each week day from 10.00 to 15.30 during the school holidays, not including Christmas week. The Saturday club is open from 10.30 to 15.30 for 23 weeks of the year.

There are currently 20 children age from five to under eight years on roll. ELHAP organises out of school care for families whose children have learning difficulties and disabilities, and also their siblings. Children and young adults from the age of eight to 18 years of age also attends the holiday play scheme and Saturday club.

The play scheme employs four permanent members of staff. Of these none hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification. Sessional staff are also employed on a casual basis. The setting receives support from various Local Authority and charitable organisations.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the staff's good understanding of the procedures to minimise the risk of cross infection through following guidelines for dealing with sick children and wearing protective clothing when handling soiled materials. There are appropriate systems in place for safely administering medication to children and required consents and instructions are obtained from parents. This ensures that the health needs of children are met. Some staff members hold a valid first aid certificate and as a result of this, children can receive appropriate care in the event of an accident. There are fully stocked first aid boxes on site, including those for when taking children on trips.

Children are provided with ready made meals and snacks brought in from home. This ensures that their individual dietary requirements and preferences are met. Children with specific dietary needs are well catered for. Staff makes sure that all parents are given advice about the safe storage of packed lunches to prevent spoiling. Fresh drinking water is available at all times and children confidently help themselves. Children enjoy daily fresh air and physical play that contributes to their health. There is an extensive range of outdoor physical play equipment that is suitable for children of all ages and abilities. This includes large play structures; trampoline and enclosure nets, swings with safety harness, various tricycles and an Ariel runway. All of which gives children lots of opportunities to develop physical skills and challenge their abilities.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in a secure environment. For example, all visitors must report to a senior staff member; sign themselves in and are given a badge to wear when on the premises. There are suitable procedures in place for the safe arrival and departure of children and they are carefully supervised throughout the day. Many of the children are brought in by a mini bus each day and the staff assists in helping to escort them off the bus. There are clear procedures for outings that ensure children's safety. The building is maintained to a satisfactory level and regular risk assessments help to minimise potential hazards. All fire safety equipment is in good working order and exit routes are free from obstruction. However, staff do not regularly practise fire drills to help children to understand the procedures to follow in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Children have ample space to work, rest and play. They have direct access to a fully enclosed outdoor area, which is well used throughout the day. Children have access to a reasonable range of toys and equipment that conforms to safety standards and are mostly in good repair. However, they do not have much variety particularly with regards to construction sets and puzzles. There is a generally good range of soft furnishing for children to sit and relax. In addition to this children have daily access to soft furnishing and equipment in the soft play room located within the grounds. Staff are aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and understand the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child in their care.

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

The provision is good.

Children's self esteem, confidence and abilities are greatly enhanced through the friendship, warmth and encouragement they receive from the staff. Children benefit from positive interaction as they receive lots of individual support and appropriate physical contact that helps them to feel settled and increase their sense of wellbeing. Children independently choose from a range of activities that are set out for them on a day to day basis and they are fully engrossed in their play. The daily routine is flexible and allows for each child's individual care routine, decision making and preferences to be met.

There are good opportunities for children to use the outdoor play area to explore the natural environment. In addition to this, they have access to a large sand pit, tree houses at ground level, play shop and can experiment with different sounds through the use of a steel drum and sheet and large tube. Children enjoy making Valentine cards and decorating biscuits. These resources help to promote children's imaginative and creative development. Children are able to explore using their senses as they hear the sounds of whales and ocean waves, see the changes in colours from fibre optic tubes and smell different aromas.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual care needs are known by the staff. The provision is set out to accommodate the physical needs of all the children who attend and the equipment and play opportunities are adapted in order that all children can participate in a range of activities offered each day. Staff are experienced and proactive in caring for and meeting the needs of children of various physical and learning abilities. They work closely with parents and outside agencies. Children benefit from the good working relationships between the staff team and their parents and siblings. Parents are kept informed about their children's progress in practical ways. For example, staff make themselves available to talk to parents at the beginning and end of the day and letters are sent home to the parents of children who are transported in by the mini bus service.

Children's behaviour is managed appropriately. The constant praise and encouragement help to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Children come from a variety of backgrounds and they learn to accept differences as they work, play and eat together. However, there are few resources reflecting positive images of race and gender.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The layout of the premises and the outdoor area is suitable for children with various levels of abilities and there is easy wheelchair access that allows free movement within the setting. Children work and play in a secure environment and they can gain easy access to facilities, toilets and resources. This helps to promote their welfare and development. Children's health is promoted because staff gather necessary information and consents from parents; take steps to minimise the spread of infection and provide lots of opportunities for physical outdoor play. There are appropriate safety measures in place to reduce the risks of potential hazards to children, however, the staff's responsibilities for fire safety needs to be addressed.

There are satisfactory recruitment procedures in place. This means that suitable and experienced staff look after children. However, not all permanent staff meet the minimum qualification

ratios. The appropriate deployment of staff ensures the careful supervision of children at all times. Policies and procedures are used to promote the welfare and care of children. With the exception of children's attendance records not being fully maintained all other mandatory records are in place and stored in a confidential manner. 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 asked to maintain the premises, ensure that there is a sufficient range of equipment and toys, which includes positive images of diversity and develop procedures for keeping the sandpit clean.

The premises are generally well maintained and the management is continuing to make improvements. Staff acknowledge the learning opportunities for children using the sand and make arrangements to check the sandpit daily. Children have access to a wide range of physical outdoor toys and equipment and materials for arts and crafts. However, there is insufficient variety and books and other resources lack positive images of diversity.

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

Since 1 April 2004, Ofsted received one complaint relating to National Standards 1: Suitable Person, that a new manager had taken over and lived on the premises and National Standards 14 :Documentation, Ofsted had not been notified of a change in management. Ofsted asked the provider to investigate and report back. From the information received it was evident that the provider was in breach of regulations and the National Standards. A warning letter was sent reminding the provider of their obligations under the current legislation. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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 children and staff have regular opportunities to practice emergency evacuations and keep a record
- develop further the range of toys in order to meet the developing needs of children from five to eight years, which include resources that reflects positive images
- develop an action plan detailing how at least half of the permanent staff qualification requirements will be met

- maintain the children's attendance record to include all required details.

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)