

The Lighthouse Club at St Jude's

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 107598

Inspection date 28 January 2008

Inspector Susan Tuffnell

Setting Address The Crypt, St Jude's Community Centre, St Georges Road, Bermondsey,
London, SE1 6EZ

Telephone number 020 74019210

E-mail

Registered person The Trustees of Lighthouse Childrens Foundation

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 Lighthouse Club at St. Judes opened in September 2000. It operates from the crypt in St Judes Community Centre. The setting is in the Elephant and Castle area in south east London and serves the local area. The setting provides a service for the children who attend local schools. Children are escorted from school to the premises situated behind St Judes School. The club have use of a hall, a further room for quiet activities and homework, kitchen, toilet facilities and an office. There is access to the secure school playground for outside activities.

The Lighthouse Club is registered for 50 children at any one time and is open Monday to Friday from 14:30 to 18:15 during school term time. Children over eight years old also attend.

There are four members of staff working with the children. The centre manager has key responsibility for the children under eight-years-old and has a recognised childcare qualification. Two other members of staff also have appropriate qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and Sure Start.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is generally protected with clear guidelines and procedures administered by staff. Individual health information is collected on registration forms and include children's dietary and medical needs to ensure children's health is safeguarded. Children generally carry out personal hygiene independently. For example, most children remember to wash their hands after toileting and before snack time. However, some children do not wash their hands routinely before eating and hygiene routines are not monitored by staff to ensure children's health needs are fully protected. Written records of accidents and the administration of medication are kept to ensure children's needs are recorded. However, staff are not always recording the time of the accident and staff and parents do not always sign to acknowledge the entry. Therefore, the required information to ensure accurate recording of accidents is not always in place.

Children enjoy some healthy and nutritious food. They benefit from a satisfactory variety of freshly prepared snacks that include fresh fruit. Cooking activities are planned once a week and children can help with the preparation of snacks. Posters giving information about healthy foods are on display and give children examples of healthy options. Water and diluted fruit squash is freely available in jugs and beakers for children to help themselves.

Children take part in a range of physical activities to learn and practise new skills. They are able to use the school facilities and have access to the playground for outdoor play. Children participate in activities to challenge and extend their experience through sport. For example, football and team games. Indoor equipment provides children with opportunities to practise skills such as jumping and balancing on the trampoline. Dance activities are arranged once a week with warm-up exercises for children to move their bodies in a variety of ways.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed by staff into premises that are generally safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. A satisfactory range of equipment is appropriate for the wide age range attending. Children have access to a large main room, move freely around the main playroom and have independent choices of a range of activities and play materials. However, some of the equipment is broken and not very clean and the organisation of the resources is messy, making it unattractive to children. For example, the book area is not very welcoming and contains little in the way of comfort for the children to sit quietly and read. Practitioners take some steps to ensure hazards both inside and outside are minimised to ensure the safety of the children. For example risk assessments are carried out each term and for outings. However, trailing wires along the floor in the second playroom, the radiator hanging of the wall and the lack of safety covers on electrical points in all areas, does not safeguard children and jeopardises their safety. Children are encouraged to keep themselves safe as they discuss road safety and 'stranger danger' with staff. This is reinforced before outings to ensure children understand the boundaries in place. Sensible precautions are in place to ensure children are safe as they are escorted by staff to the setting. Children are protected with suitable registration procedures to ensure staff manage the after school club appropriately. Procedures for emergency evacuation of the building are in place and displayed for parents and children. Fire drills are practised regularly and this impacts positively on the children's ability to understand and act upon a real life fire situation.

Staff understand their responsibilities to protect the children in their care and are able to implement policies and procedures in order to protect every child. Staff are aware of signs and symptoms of children at risk. However the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance is not used at the moment and none of the staff are trained in this. Therefore the child protection policy needs to be updated to inform parents and safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children generally enjoy their time in the setting, they are mostly happy and eager to participate. They have an adequate range of activities that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children are able to make some choices and decisions about their play. Mixed age groups play together. For example, children sit together drawing pictures and chatting about school. The younger children are offered help by some of their older friends and included in this activity. Children are generally relaxed and move freely between activities. However, some of the older children are often bored and display some challenging behaviour such as shouting loudly, teasing others and controlling some of the activities, for example the freestanding football game. This impacts negatively on the younger children who have limited opportunity to use some of the larger equipment. There are some stimulating activities planned for the children however, the unorganised resources do not provide sufficient challenge for the children. Staff offer support and try to encourage children's play opportunities with the emphasis firmly on fun and enjoyment. They join in playing ball games and give lots of praise and encouragement. Children make some positive relationships within their peer groups and seek out friends to have fun with.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The staff have a positive attitude and endeavour to provide a friendly environment to ensure that all children are treated with equal concern. Staff show respect and kindness to the children, valuing the individuals' ethnic background and culture. Topics are planned to raise children's awareness of different cultures by looking at traditional clothes and food and by celebrating a diverse multicultural society positively. Most children generally behave well, play cooperatively together, understand the group rules, self-discipline and compromise. However, some children display problems with discipline and sharing and this is not dealt with effectively by the staff. The setting is suitable to offer an inclusive environment for all children with wheelchair access and facilities for children with disabilities.

Staff have satisfactory relationships with parents which impact directly on the confidence and security of each child. They involve parents in the day to day discussion of their children's care and give opportunities for parents to share views or concerns. For example, staff greet parents as they arrive and are available for verbal feedback. Staff are aware of the need to maintain privacy and confidentiality and this impacts on the parents' trust in the setting and the children's feelings of security. Parents are provided with basic written information which includes relevant information regarding the organisation of the group. A written complaints procedure is available to parents in the parent's information book. This gives details of Ofsted and guidance for parents. However, the parent's information book is not freely accessible to parents and therefore parents do not have clear information about how to make a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The premises are organised with suitable use of space to provide play opportunities for children. For example, different areas for particular activities, such as group games and quiet play. Staff deployment generally impacts positively on the safety, welfare and enjoyment of the children. Staff induction and training includes health and safety, child protection and the policies and procedures in place for the smooth running of the group. Half of the staff hold an appropriate childcare qualification and are aware of their duties and responsibilities. This impacts directly on the care of the children and their enjoyment of the facilities. Documentation is maintained to a satisfactory standard and includes detailed information on the children's individual needs.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of all the children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the club was asked to improve toys and resources available to meet the needs of children, include the procedure to be taken if an allegation is made against a member of staff in the child protection statement and monitor staff interaction with children and take action to ensure that there is consistency in the staff's approach to working with the children. Resources have been improved with the purchase of art and craft materials, the procedure for allegations made against a member of staff is in the child protection statement and staff monitoring is done by the manager to observe staff interaction with children.

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):

- develop children's understanding of hygiene with effective hand washing procedures
- improve documentation of accidents by maintaining correct records and ensuring that parents sign each entry
- ensure toys and play materials are well maintained, clean and in working order

- update the child protection policy with the Safeguarding Children Board information
- ensure children are sufficiently stimulated and challenged by planning and providing a wide range of activities and resources
- ensure behaviour management methods are consistent and create an environment that encourages good behaviour with all the children
- ensure that the complaints procedure is made available to parents.

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