

Lewes and District YMCA

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY281347
Inspection date	19 February 2008
Inspector	Lisa Jane Cupples
Setting Address	The Childrens Centre, Westgate Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1YR
Telephone number	01273 474599
E-mail	
Registered person	Lewes and District YMCA
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Lewes and District YMCA Out of School Club opened in 2004. It is run by the YMCA and operates from the YMCA building in Lewes, East Sussex. It has the use of the gymnasium on the ground floor and Studio One and the games room on the first floor. A maximum of 20 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 15:00 to 18:00 during term time. In school holidays the club is open each weekday from 08:30 to 17:00. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 67 children aged from four years to under eight years on roll. Children come from Lewes and the surrounding area. The club provides a drop off and collection service from three local primary schools. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The club is organised by the YMCA project manager who holds an appropriate play work qualification. There are four other members of staff employed to work with the children. Of these, three hold appropriate play work qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through discussion and daily routines. For example, children wash their hands at appropriate times, after using the toilet facilities and before the cooking activity. Children take responsibility for their play environment as they help to clean the tables before snacks and the cooking activity. Staff ensure the premises are clean and well-maintained and complete regular checks of the areas used. For example, staff monitor the cleanliness of the toilet facilities throughout the day and arrive early to risk assess the building.

Staff have a very clear understanding of the procedures to follow with regard to accidents that occur on the premises and the administration of all medication. Detailed records are maintained well and parents are required to sign the records to ensure they are fully informed. Children will receive appropriate treatment if an accident occurs because staff hold current first aid certificates and a fully stocked first aid kit is in place. Parents are also required to give written consent for staff to seek emergency medical treatment or advice, minimising any delays to the children receiving treatment if necessary.

Children are beginning to learn the importance of a healthy diet and staff ensure an extensive range of nutritious snacks and meals are provided. The club offers hot meals or parents can provide their children's packed lunches. Sample menus are given to the parents and children are able to suggest menus via the children's survey, completed by children who attend the club. Staff find out about children's specific requirements through discussion with the parents and the comprehensive registration forms. Children's allergies, medical, cultural and parental preferences are clearly recorded and shared with the staff team to ensure the children's needs are being met at all times.

Children have many opportunities to develop their large muscle skills and enjoy a wide range of whole group activities, such as, bench ball and dodge ball in the gymnasium. They also have access to a fully secure outdoor play area, which is shared on a timetable with a neighbouring nursery.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the warm and welcoming environment. Children's work is displayed around the walls and children take pride in showing visitors what they have been doing. Children have access to a wide range of activities, resources and play materials that are suitable for their age. They are able to self-select games and activities and staff encourage the children to lead the play, organising games and planning themes with the staff team. This encourages the children to feel valued and part of the group, developing their confidence and self esteem exceptionally well. The resources and play materials are clean and in good condition, providing a broad range of play opportunities for the children who attend. Staff are skilled at encouraging the children to look after the games, gently reminding them to put the pieces back in the boxes so they will not be lost, enabling other children to enjoy them.

Children's safety is promoted effectively because staff are vigilant and minimise the risks to children. For example, the door to the hall is kept locked to prevent children from slipping away

unnoticed and the keys are easily accessible in an emergency. The equipment being used and the premises are checked before the children arrive, ensuring a safe and secure play environment is provided. Staff also take the time to remind children of the rules, ensuring there are no misunderstandings about safety issues throughout the day. As a result, children can play safely and have fun. Children are beginning to learn the importance of keeping themselves safe. They fully understand the safety rules of the group and practise regular fire drills. Children are able to explain the procedures, showing they know what to do in an emergency. However, one of the fire exits is not kept clear.

Staff have a very clear understanding of the child protection procedures and are able to recognise the possible signs and symptoms of abuse. Any concerns are raised with the manager and clearly recorded. Staff have the contact details of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and parents are made aware of the setting's responsibilities through discussion and the policy documents. All incidents and children's pre-existing injuries are recorded and parents sign to acknowledge the entries, protecting the children who attend. Clear procedures are in place regarding allegations against members of staff. However, the procedures to monitor the ongoing suitability of the staff team are not fully developed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit greatly from the vibrant and stimulating environment created by the dedicated staff team. Staff ensure they plan an extensive range of activities and games and are skilled at allowing the children to take the lead, while facilitating their ideas and suggestions. Children are keen to share their thoughts and staff value their contributions, helping them to settle in quickly, enjoying their time at the club. Staff also give the children opportunities to complete surveys about their favourite things at the club. They are asked about what they would like to do, anything they would like added to the activities and even what is included on the menu.

Children are extremely happy and settled at the club. They laugh and giggle with each other and the staff as they tell jokes and play games together. Staff participate fully with enthusiasm, motivating the children to join in. The atmosphere is exciting and the children are fully occupied and engaged throughout the day. Staff organise the sessions well and use circle time effectively to get everyone involved. For example, children sit with the staff and talk about what Chinese Year they were born in. The conversations and discussions are extended and then the children go to make their own fortune cookies at the baking activity.

Children use their imaginations well as they dress up and negotiate characters with each other. They co-operate together, playing games and taking turns with ease. Staff help the children to learn the rules of the games, such as, Pop-up Pirates and then stand back, allowing the children to continue playing. Children have access to writing materials, computers and a wide selection of books, providing quieter activities for those children who do not want to take part in the more physical aspects of the club, ensuring all children's needs and interests are supported at all times.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the staff's clear understanding of equal opportunities; they differentiate the activities well, encouraging all children to share and take turns. The children develop positive

attitudes towards one another and recognise the need to accept and listen to others' opinions. They are polite and are beginning to show consideration for others, for example, asking new children if they would like to join in or explaining the daily routines. The setting has clear policies and procedures in place to fully support all children who attend.

Children behave well because the staff have a calm and relaxed approach to behaviour management. Children revisit the group rules at the start of each day encouraging them to take responsibility. Staff take the time to explain to children so they can see they have been treated fairly. Children are encouraged to use their manners, saying please and thank you throughout the session. Staff praise the children for their efforts and recognise when they are trying to be helpful, making them feel valued and giving them a sense of belonging. Parents receive detailed information about the setting, the daily routines and their children's activities, developing good links with home and enabling parents to share experiences with their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children are fully occupied and engaged with an extensive range of play opportunities, ensuring they have fun during their time at the setting. Daily routines are organised effectively to ensure all children's needs are being met. Children are safe and secure because the manager follows the robust recruitment and vetting procedures appropriately. However, there are currently no systems in place to monitor the ongoing suitability of staff once they have been appointed. Children's safety and well-being is promoted effectively because the staff maintain all the paperwork and legal documentation well. The staff have a very clear understanding of the requirements of registration and the inspection process, keeping children safe.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a Level 2 qualification in play work. They were also asked to ensure all policies and procedures meet the current requirements, with particular regard to complaints and lost or uncollected children procedures.

The setting has worked hard to develop the staff teams training, enabling them to gain play work qualifications to meet the requirements of registration and over half of the staff team are now qualified. The policies and procedures are all in place and are reviewed regularly to ensure they reflect the setting's practice, protect the children who attend and keep the parents fully informed.

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 all fire exits are kept clear
- develop and implement procedures to monitor the ongoing suitability of staff working with the children.

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