

Challengers Guildford

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122433
Inspection date	31 March 2008
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Registered person	Disability Challengers
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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?

Challengers Guildford is the main project and headquarters of Disability Challengers who run a chain of play and leisure schemes for young disabled people across Surrey, Berkshire and Hampshire. Guildford Challengers registered in 1992 and is registered to provide care for 25 children aged three to eight years. Children aged over eight years also attend. It operates from a single storey building situated at the east end of Stoke Park in Guildford, Surrey. The main areas used by children are a main play floor area with soft play area, and ancillary rooms leading off the play floor including an art room, kitchen/cookery room and fully equipped sensory room. Children also have access to an enclosed outdoor play area with a large accessible play structure and half an acre of grassed area. There is also a paddling pool and a room that provides facilities for quieter activities.

Challengers opens for 50 weeks of the year, seven days per week during term time and six days per week during holiday periods. The after school club operates between 15.30 and 18.00, the play scheme which is held on Saturdays and during school holidays runs from 09.30 to 16.00 and monthly family days are held on Sundays from 10.30 to 15.00. School visits, parent and toddler and young carers groups are also timetabled throughout the week.

Full time staff, part-time staff and volunteers work with the children and the number working depends on the children present. Four have early years qualifications in Play-work. The setting receives support from the Early Years Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children within the after school club and holiday play scheme enjoy access to fresh air and exercise regularly on the purpose built outside play apparatus, in a secure field or in the extensive soft play area of the play room. Children develop good personal hygiene skills with staff providing appropriate levels of support to meet their individual needs. Good hygiene procedures are in place to ensure children remain free from infection with the toilets and changing facilities kept in a hygienic condition. Staff follow good personal hygiene practices and use gloves.

Children receive appropriate treatment if ill. Several staff hold relevant first aid qualifications and any details are recorded on accident sheets. Several children require regular medication and this is stored securely. Staff ensure that medication sheets record when medication requires administering and parents acknowledge these entries.

Children's dietary needs are recorded on their record sheets and highlighted to staff. Staff can access this information in the kitchen area prior to undertaking any cooking activity, food tasting or preparing tea.

Children can freely access fresh drinking water, squash and freshly cut fruit from a table within the play room. All children sit together to eat and it is a social occasion. Some children eat the freshly cooked food provided by Challengers and other children bring in their packed lunches (staff store these in a cool area).

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive at the provision with their parents or by being collected from their school by the centre's minibus. They arrive to find facilities available in the form of a sensory room, soft play equipment and access to a variety of play resources and board games. During the holiday play schemes children have access to all these resources and additional craft materials and games are purchased to supplement these. Children's work is presented on the walls and provides colourful displays.

Staff regularly follow good cleaning procedures, however, due to the condition of the flooring, and despite staff hoovering, sweeping and steam cleaning, it remains grubby and a hazard to those children playing on the floor or reliant on crawling for independent mobility. Insufficient external mats for children and staff to wipe their feet on does not assist with the bringing of in sand and dirt from outside.

Staff demonstrate a good understanding of child protection and all demonstrate an awareness of procedures to follow and information to record if concerned about a child's welfare. Staff are deployed effectively and are vigilant about children's safety, however, children may be at risk as the management failed to notify the Regulatory body of new supervisors being employed and therefore the associated suitability checks are not completed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy attending both the after-school sessions and the holiday play scheme. They receive excellent support and appropriate individual care from the staff and build strong relationships with them. Children enthusiastically enjoy using the soft play equipment and the purpose built outside play frames. They can access a variety of stimulating activities that are appropriate to their ages and individual needs, including board games, karaoke, face painting and using the sensory room. Some children confidently choose and request toys and resources for themselves and staff are aware of those that the others enjoy participating in. Children respond animatedly and with enthusiasm to the activities and to new challenges, they are confident and staff provide excellent support to them in their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The provision has both an equal opportunity and special needs statement in place that remains accessible to staff and is available to parents. Staff have a good knowledge of the individual children attending and know their home and family circumstances ensuring that they can provide care to meet their individual needs. Staff ensure children remain involved in the choices. Staff encourage children to value one another and promote positive behaviour. Children display good manners during play and whilst at the table eating together. Staff ensure children's special needs are fully integrated into the group and work closely with parents and outside professionals.

Partnership with parents is positively promoted and a strength of the provision. Parents receive information about the facilities offered by the group (including the after school club and the holiday play scheme) through a variety of ways, including the prospectus, policies, newsletters and notice boards. However, the required complaints procedure, in line with the October 2005 addendum to the National Standards, requires amending and being made available to parents, carers and staff.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff ensure that the premises are well organised and ready for the children's arrival whether operating the after school club or the holiday play scheme. Both indoor and outdoor space is available to maximise play opportunities for children. Children and parents benefit from the development of written policies and procedures although some aspects of these require reviewing. Children benefit from there being a high staff to child ratio of motivated staff and volunteers. These display caring attitudes and demonstrate a knowledge of the play work they deliver. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Partnership with parents is positively promoted and a strength of the provision. Good recording systems ensure that children's and staff's attendance is recorded. Parents remain fully informed of their child's achievements, with the staff discussing all aspects of the children's care with them. The operational plan is effective and there are written policies and procedures in place, which are reviewed regularly, however, the management do not have ongoing vetting procedures in place. The procedure for notifying Ofsted (as the Regulatory body) of significant changes, for instance changes to the setting's supervisors, requires addressing.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection it was recommended that the provision reviews the way records are maintained to ensure confidentiality with regards to medication administered and this has been addressed. They were to introduce a system to record full details of all visitors to the site and now all visitors sign in on arrival and are issued with visitors' badges and they leave these badges when they sign out. It was also recommended that they make available Ofsted's contact details to parents in the event of a complaint, which they addressed, however, there is still a requirement to amend the complaints policy further in light of recent legislative changes.

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):

- inform Ofsted promptly of the appointment (or promotion) of any person who has responsibility for the day to day management of the group
- ensure that there are rigorous on-going vetting procedures in place as well as initial vetting procedures
- provide a complaints procedure in line with the October 2005 addendum to the National Standards and ensure that this is made available to parents, carers and staff.
- ensure that the flooring within the play room area is in a safe and hygienic condition for children to play and crawl on. In addition provide additional resources for staff and children to wipe their feet on before entering this room from the outside play area.

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