

Westfield Middle School Summer Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY340340
Inspection date	29 July 2008
Inspector	Susan Marriott
Setting Address	Westfield Middle School, Chester Road, BEDFORD, MK40 4HW
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Registered person	Bedford Borough Council
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?

Westfield Middle School Summer playscheme is run by Bedford Borough Council. It operates from the dining room and large hall rooms within the school. All children share access to a secure enclosed outside play area.

A maximum of 40 children from five to eight years may attend the playscheme at any one time. There are currently 15 children under eight years on roll. The playscheme is open five days a week for five weeks of the summer holidays, between the hours of 10.00 and 12.00 and 14.00 until 16.00.

Children attending live locally and in the surrounding area. The playscheme is able to support children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The playscheme employs eight staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is suitably promoted because staff implement the policies and procedures for health and hygiene. Appropriate systems are in place to record accidents and the administration of medication in order to promote children's welfare. All staff attend an induction week which incorporates training in first aid and the first aid box is readily accessible. Written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is in place for every child. These measures enable the staff to secure appropriate treatment in the event of minor and more serious medical emergencies.

Children have multiple opportunities to participate in regular physical play. Planned activities and available equipment provide daily opportunities for active play indoor or outdoors. They regularly use the school playground, field and indoor sports hall to join team games and sports activities which contribute very well to their good health and overall fitness. Children have fun and become confident in their own abilities as they shoot the ball into the net while playing basketball. They develop co-ordination and control of their bodies during games such as rounders.

Children's health and dietary needs are met because satisfactory systems are in place to work with parents to identify any individual needs and to ensure staff awareness. As sessions do not exceed two hours duration, snacks and meals are not provided. Children are encouraged to bring a drinking bottle to the playscheme and supplies of drinking water are always available on site. Staff are suitably aware of the necessity to offer frequent water breaks and these are increased appropriately during spells of hot weather.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The playscheme environment is welcoming for children, being clean and sufficiently organised. The school premises provides ample space for them to participate comfortably in a range of suitable activities. Staff greet the children warmly on arrival at the club, and do all they can to ensure that children are happy, comfortable and settled. Children have access to appropriate sports equipment and there are generous amounts of art and craft resources available to meet the developmental needs of the ages of children in attendance. Children say they are particularly enjoying the novelty of new pearlescent paints provided this year. However, there are few alternative resources to entertain children who do not wish to join in with team games or art activities.

Children are suitably safe and well-supervised. Comprehensive risk assessments of the premises and specific activities are in place to minimise hazards and prevent accidents. All staff use walkie-talkies which allows them to remain in contact in the event of an emergency. Staff have clearly designated roles and responsibilities and clear emergency evacuation procedures are in place. The main entrance to the playscheme is secure, admittance being controlled by staff. The staff can see clearly who is arriving through the glass panelled doors and are clear about checking the identity of any strangers. Visitors to the club are recorded in the visitor record and supervised whilst on site.

Children's welfare is sufficiently protected because the adults looking after them receive induction training which includes basic safeguarding knowledge. The written policy contains a clear statement about the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer. Playscheme staff have current reference documentation, with relevant contact details readily accessible should they have concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at the play scheme. Staff are very attentive towards the children and keen to make the playscheme a success. Although the range of activities is limited, children enthusiastically join in with team games and art activities. Children are mainly settled because they have generally have good relationships with the staff who work hard to keep them sufficiently occupied, by giving them lots of attention and encouraging them to enjoy the sports activities and the resources which are available to them. Staff generally interact with the children in positive ways and the senior play leaders provide good role models for other staff, using friendly discussions and showing an interest in the children in order to help them feel valued and part of the setting. Children are sometimes grouped according to age and staff modify the challenges to meet their developmental needs. For example, younger children can play basketball with the nets in the lower position.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by consistent adults who know them well. They develop friendships with each other and look forward to spending time with their friends at the play scheme. Children have access to all activities which are at times adapted to enable younger children to be fully included. For example, younger children play bucket ball rather than basket ball which means that they can participate at their own level. Children are valued because they feel a sense of belonging within the play scheme, effectively promoted by the generally good quality of staff interaction. No children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities currently attend the club although there is a written statement in place to support any children who may attend in the future. Children behave appropriately considering their stage of development and respond positively to the clear expectations of staff. Suitable systems are in place to foster appropriate working relations with parents in order to promote continuity of care for children. Various notices and information for parents is set out in the entrance hall. This means that the partnership with parents is working well enough to meet the needs of the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The management is generally meeting the National Standards and regulations and the outcomes for children are sound. Policies and procedures generally promote children's safety and welfare effectively. Appropriate vetting procedures and relevant checks have been carried out to secure children's welfare. However, records relating to staff recruitment, induction and qualification are not readily available for inspection by the early years childcare inspector. Children's play and development needs are adequately met because the arrangement of space, resources and routines meets their needs for active and quiet play. Generous numbers of staff are employed to meet and exceed the required adult to child ratios to ensure children's safety and to give

appropriate support. Induction procedures, including training in child protection, behaviour management and first aid, ensures staff are fully informed about what is expected of them and enables them to promote children's welfare. The daily register of children's arrival and departure is properly maintained and secures children's welfare in an emergency. Registration forms with children's names, addresses and date of birth are completed for every child on roll and the parental permission section is always appropriately completed to clarify parents wishes for the care of their child. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection of day care, the setting was required to address three issues. These involved ensuring that unknown visitors are unable to enter the premises unsupervised; that accident records are signed by parents and that all records relating to day care are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times including details of all staff.

The setting has satisfactorily reviewed site security to protect children from unauthorised persons. All staff are now aware of the requirement to ensure that parents sign the accident records and the accident record forms have been re-designed to include a space for parental signatures. These measures secure children's welfare appropriately.

A blue box file system has been implemented to ensure that most records relating to day care are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times. The files contain personal information and evidence that staff have been suitably vetted, although details of staff qualifications, recruitment and induction continue to be held at the central office. Given time, the registered person can fetch this information on request but senior staff on site are not clear about qualification levels amongst the staff whom they supervise. Therefore, the setting has only partially met this action and the remaining elements of this requirement are carried forward for completion following this inspection.

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):

- continue to improve the range of resources and play materials available to meet the individual developmental needs of the children
- ensure records relating to staff recruitment, induction and qualification are readily available for inspection by the early years childcare inspector.

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