



Squirrels Holiday Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120215
Inspection date	01 August 2005
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Registered person	Frimley Park Hospital NHS Trust
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?

Squirrels Holiday Playscheme opened in 1999 and provides out of school holiday care for children aged 4 to 13 years of age. The holiday club is run by Woodlands Day Nursery at Frimley Park Hospital and is open to children whose parents work at the hospital.

It operates from St Mary's Church Hall in Camberley, Surrey. The club meets in the main hall and also has the use of an adjacent room. There is an outside area available for outdoor play and the club also makes use of the nearby park.

The playscheme is registered to care for a maximum of 50 children from 4 to under 8 years at any one time. It is open from 08.00 – 18.00 Monday to Friday during all school holidays. Children may attend for a variety of sessions.

There are currently 100 children aged from 4 to 13 years on roll. The club welcomes children with special needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

Seven members of staff work with the children. Five staff members, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is working towards a play work qualification. Other staff are unqualified but do have experience of working in out of school care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because staff are aware of and follow suitable procedures to minimise the spread of infection and to maintain children's good health. Children are independent in self-care skills, and follow staff's requests to wash their hands before eating lunch. Staff encourage children to have regard for good hygiene as they remind them to dispose of their food wrappers in the rubbish sack after lunch.

Children bring packed lunches from home whilst staff provide drinks and snacks. Children have easy access to drinks throughout the day which means that they do not go thirsty or become dehydrated. Staff seek information from parents about children's dietary needs and/or any allergies they may have.

Children have good opportunities for physical play and to be active, both inside and outdoors. Staff set up an area of the hall to cater for games and they make daily use of the adjacent local park and field in good weather. Children enjoy playing football and taking part in circle games such as Duck, Duck, Goose. They explore the different types of sports equipment available wholeheartedly. Children have periods of relaxation throughout the day. There are soft chairs available and staff have cushions which they get out if children wish to rest and be quiet. Children do not, however, have access to a ready set up comfy area at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety receives good attention from staff who are secure in their knowledge about safety issues and who are aware of their responsibility to safeguard the children in their care. All members of staff covered child protection as part of their induction training before the scheme started this summer. They are aware of the different types of child abuse and neglect, possible signs and symptoms and what action to take if they have concerns. There is always at least one member of staff present who holds a valid first aid qualification and staff take a first aid box with them when they take children to the park.

They are vigilant of children, indoors and outside. A detailed risk assessment is in place. This identifies areas for attention together with review dates which demonstrates that this is a working document. Staff also undertake a daily safety check of the premises before the children arrive. The premises where the scheme are not currently fully secure because there is a broken latch on the front door and a broken bolt on a kitchen door. Staff are very aware of the increased risk this poses to children's safety and are take suitable precautions to ensure their safety whilst waiting for the situation to be dealt with. They are very careful to ensure that children are fully supervised. Children learn and follow the rules for their own safety as staff draw their attention to potential hazards and set clear boundaries. Their use of reasons and explanation reinforces children's understanding. Children are aware of what to do in the event of a fire as staff remind them of the procedure to follow.

Children use a variety of age appropriate resources, equipment and suitable furniture. Staff regularly check all items to ensure all are safe and ready for children to use and that there is nothing that may harm them.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

There is a lively atmosphere at this scheme. Children are happy and well-occupied. They spend their time exploring the broad range of resources and activities provided both individually and in small groups. They make independent choices from these. They enjoy arts and crafts, playing imaginatively with small world toys and being active. There is a continual buzz of conversation and some laughter as children and staff interact with one another in positive ways. Staff change activities during the course of the day to keep play provision fresh and to maintain children's interest.

Warm, relaxed relationships exist with children referring to staff by name. They have the confidence to ask questions and to express their individual needs. Staff show interest in what children have to say and in what they are doing. They participate in and facilitate children's play, for example, by helping them to complete puzzles, and as they play hangman. The scheme's "buddy system" where children spend a short period each day with a member of staff and a specified group of children offers a good way of helping children and staff to get to know each other better. It also helps children become more confident and develop their social skills as they mix with children they may not have met before.

Staff plan some activities around a weekly theme. They encourage children to contribute their own ideas and they build on these. Children are able to choose whether they participate in planned activities and staff respect their decisions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children generally behave well. There are clear expectations for behaviour and these are displayed in the form of a "Children's contract." Staff make a point of talking

about these when the whole group comes together each day. Their good use of explanation and the giving of reasons reinforces children's understanding of what is and is not acceptable. Children share and take turns with some equipment, such as the playstation. Staff draw children's attention to how much they have left before they need to hand over to another child. This approach fulfils two purposes. It gives children advance notice of the need to finish and also helps waiting children understand that they do not have long to wait before their turn. They encourage children to have respect for one another by listening to what other children have to say. Children respond positively to staff's use of praise and encouragement which raises their self-esteem. They help tidy up upon request. They receive reassurance and help from staff which contributes to their sense of security and feelings of ease. Staff stress the importance of everyone having fun and make it clear that children need to tell them if there is anything they are not happy about.

Children show curiosity about other children and interest in what they are doing. They ask questions and comment favourably on each other's creations as they make "hamma bead" models. Children are able to display their artwork around the hall. This helps to create a warm and welcoming environment for everyone and encourages a sense of belonging and awareness that their efforts are valued. Occasional outside visitors to the holiday club such as the fire brigade enhance the range of experiences children have whilst they attend the scheme.

Parents have easy access to relevant and useful information about the playscheme. Staff seek their written consent for different aspects of their children's care. Staff and parents enjoy relaxed relationships and they informally exchange information about children at drop off and pick up times. Staff do not hurry parents away, but encourage them to come in with their children. Thus, they are able to see what activities the children are doing and how they relate to others.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children have sufficient space to move around and make decisions about where they wish to play. Staff organise available space mostly very well to meet the needs of the children attending. They arrange the hall to enable children to participate in a variety of activities, including physical play and the lounge area as an area for quieter type activities. Children have the freedom to play outside on the patio area.

Required documentation and relevant policies and procedures which underpin the efficient management of the provision and contribute to the safety and welfare of children are mostly in place. Paperwork is well organised. However, the holiday club does not keep a record of any visitors. Whilst staff do seek written consent to administer medication and keep a record of any medication given, they do not ask parents to sign this record to acknowledge that medication has been given.

The holiday club forms part of the childcare provision available to parents who work at Frimley Park Hospital. Most staff working at the club are deployed from Woodlands; the hospital's on site nursery and have previous experience of working at the scheme. The majority of staff hold appropriate child care qualifications and one

member of staff is currently undertaking a Level 3 play work qualification. It is intended that other members of staff working at the club will also undertake this training. Suitable recruitment, vetting and induction procedures ensure that children receive protection and support from staff who have relevant experience, skills and knowledge.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Four recommendations were made at the last inspection. These related to the supervision of children and maintenance of appropriate staff ratios, the provision of additional games, toys and activities and suitable storage arrangements for children's lunch boxes. The steps staff have taken to address these issues contribute positively to children's overall good health, their continued safety and their enjoyment of the scheme.

Staff are aware of required ratios and they take steps to ensure that they maintain these. They supervise children carefully and monitor their whereabouts using a recently introduced system of recording whether children are playing inside or outdoors. Children assist staff in the completion of this task which helps them gain a sense of responsibility. Children's lunchboxes are stored on a table in the main hall. It has not been possible to provide refrigeration facilities on site and staff have informed parents of this in writing. Parents are asked to make sure they include an ice pack or a frozen carton of juice in their children's lunchbox to help keep food cool in hot weather. Staff have purchased a variety of new resources. These include items that enable several children to play together and thus, they play co-operatively and develop their social skills. Children are well occupied and enjoy their play.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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.
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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 the security of the premises to minimise potential risk to children
- consider ways of ensuring children have access to a comfy area at all times where they can rest and relax
- keep a record of all visitors to the holiday club and ensure that parents sign the record of medicines given to children to further consolidate the health records of children attending the scheme

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk