

Challengers Leatherhead

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY268776

Inspection date 11 April 2008

Inspector Ann Moss

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Registered person Disability Challengers

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?

Challengers Leatherhead play scheme opened in its current premises in 2003. It operates from four rooms in Woodlands School, Leatherhead. A maximum of 30 children may attend at any one time. The play scheme opens Monday to Friday for three weeks during the Easter and summer holidays. Opening hours are 9.30 to 16.00. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area.

Children come from East and West Surrey.

The number of children on roll varies. The play scheme is registered for children aged from three to eight years and accepts children up to 12 years. The play scheme supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Fifteen staff work with the children, of these two have a relevant qualification. Two are working towards a recognised early years qualification. Ongoing training opportunities are provided by the Disability Challengers organisation. Three members of staff hold a current first aid certificate.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The setting makes sure that good hygiene is well promoted. Staff are inducted into health and hygiene procedures, which they understand and generally implement them well. For example, staff ensure the environment and equipment are hygienically clean before children arrive each day. There are suitable procedures in place for dealing with children's personal needs. Staff ensure the privacy of children and deal sensitively with toileting and changing. Some children look after their own personal care, they recognise when they need the toilet. However, staff insufficiently check resources to support children's good hygiene practice with regards to hand drying and toileting.

Staff receive first aid and additional training to support children's individual medical requirements. They record detailed information about children's health and medical history and necessary parental consents, accidents and administered medication are well maintained. The first aid box is easily identifiable, accessible and appropriately stocked. This means children receive appropriate treatment in the event of a minor accident.

Children benefit from meals and snacks that accommodate their individual dietary needs, food preferences or allergies they may have. Although these are provided by parents management obtain all relevant information and advice and ensure staff are fully informed. Meal times are social occasions and children can choose where to sit promoting their independent skills. Staff are sensitive and support children with feeding, where necessary, allowing them to eat at their own pace. Drinking water is freely accessible and children have their own beakers. Staff observe, monitor and support children throughout the session to ensure they receive sufficient drinks for their needs and to help them remain refreshed. Staff use a system of picture exchange communication (PECS) to ensure all children can easily communicate their needs.

Most children take part in energetic physical play, which contributes to their good health and physical development. Staff create opportunities for children to use a wide range of physical equipment, including, soft play, balls, hoops and tunnels. Children develop a positive attitude to physical exercise through the well planned activities. They enjoy the outdoor area, including using large scale climbing equipment. Children are developing a good sense of spatial awareness, as they move around the setting with increasing control. Children with physical difficulties have opportunities to change position with support from staff within a safe and controlled environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The building used by the play scheme is light, airy and well maintained. Staff ensure children and parents feel welcome as they greet them warmly by name as they enter the setting.

The premises provide ample space, in an appropriate location, to allow children free movement and well spread out activities. Children have access to sufficient, suitable equipment and materials, which support stimulating activities and play opportunities for all. These are appropriate for the ages and individual developmental needs of the children.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised as staff understand and comply with health and safety requirements. They carry out thorough visual and documented risk assessments routinely and are vigilant. Children can access the resources and toys with ease and in safety promoting decisions making skills. All equipment is checked and cleaned regularly, and staff ensure it conforms to safety standards to protect children. Children benefit from the high adult to child ratio. Staff deployment is good, takes account of children's abilities and their growing need for independence.

Children learn to keep themselves safe as staff discuss the provision's rules with them. For example, they are gently reminded that snacks must be eaten sitting down. Clearly defined procedures for emergency evacuation are in place and routinely practised with staff and children to ensure it is fully effective.

Children are well safeguarded by staff who have attended specific child protection training to recognise possible signs of abuse or neglect in children with language and communication delay. Appropriate procedures are in place and readily available to parents. The supervisor is the designated person and staff understand the importance of confidentiality.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive happy and are keen to absorb themselves in play. Some children make decisions and freely exercise choices as they select from a variety of activities, set out by staff, each day. Children freely participate in energetic physical play. They use the bouncy castle and soft play area with enthusiasm. They use their bodies in different ways as they jump, climb, bounce and sit. They confidently use large, more challenging equipment, investigate nature and experiment with other stimulating stimuli such as chimes to make music and bubble blowing during outdoor free play.

Children's senses are stimulated through sound, light and touch. They watch staff apply paint to a rock and are encouraged to do this for themselves. They are visually stimulated by staff who make patterns with fingers in corn flour and then dribble creating movement, pattern and shape. Children listen to music and storytelling because staff are vocally animated and use colourful props.

Children play alongside each other and some invite others into their play, building relationships. Staff are patient, sensitive and speak kindly to children. They have a sense of humour, laugh and share an occasional joke and join in with children's activities, when invited. Children can be themselves and have fun in the relaxed, friendly environment

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are central in the organisation of the daily routine. Staff take care to ensure all children are included and adapt activities according to their needs. Staff work closely with parents and carers to ensure that children's individual needs are consistently met. Children are introduced to other cultures through an acceptable range of toys and planned activities.

Children behave well and they are helped to recognise the difference between right and wrong through staff's gentle reminders. Staff help them to be polite and considerate; they praise and reaffirm their achievements.

Children benefit from the friendly relationships established between staff and parents. Parents receive information through the registration form, handbook, policies, procedures and notice board. There are opportunities to exchange additional information at drop off and collection. This helps staff and parents to work together to promote the care and welfare of children. Management seek parents' views through a written questionnaire.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a carefully vetted and inducted staff team who have good levels of experience caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The role and responsibilities of staff are clearly defined. Daily briefing and de-briefing ensure staff are fully aware of the care provision and the needs of individuals. Staff deployment is effective and ensures they are fully involved in supporting children, as needed, to maximise their care, learning and enjoyment. The staff team are enthusiastic, sensitive, patient and committed to providing good quality care and enjoyment for all.

Children's welfare, care and development is well supported and underpinned by comprehensive policies and procedures which are shared with parents. Staff to child ratios are very high and determined during the registration of each child. Records and documentation are maintained to a good standard and there are clear procedures in place to ensure confidentiality. The setting meets the needs of the range of children from whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider agreed to make sure fire drills are undertaken and include staff and children.

The provider has made improvements in that an emergency evacuation has been practised to ensure it is fully effective. This change to practice helps to ensure children's safety and welfare.

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 good hygiene practice at all times with particular reference to hand drying and toileting.

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