

Timbuktu Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY222399
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Inspector	Maggie Thorp
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Registered person	Timbuktu Adventure Playgroup Association
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Timbuktu Adventure Playground was registered in 2002. It is run by a management committee and is a community play project in the Tollington Ward area in the London borough of Islington. The setting offers an open access service and child care in school holidays for children in the local community. The premises consist of a purpose built building with a playroom, quiet room, toilets, kitchen and office. Outdoors there are two play areas, an adventure playground and an area for ball games.

Timbuktu is registered to care for 25 children aged five years to eight years after school and during school holidays. There are currently 88 children under eight on roll attending for a variety of sessions. Some children speak English as an additional language. Some children attending have learning difficulties and disabilities. The opening hours after school are Tuesday and Wednesday 16:00 to 19:30; Thursday and Friday 16:00 to 18:30 and Saturday 12:00 to 17:30. They are closed on Mondays. The opening hours of the holiday play scheme are 08:30 to 17:30 and on Fridays 08:30 to 16:30. The play project is also available for children aged eight to 14 years.

Timbuktu has a total of four permanent staff of which three are qualified and one is working towards a qualification and they take on four additional qualified staff in the summer holidays. The group receive advice and support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are sufficiently clean to promote children's health. The toilets are well stocked with soap and paper towels and the kitchen is kept clean. Children's good hygiene is encouraged as staff remind children to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

Children are well cared for when hurt or unwell. They can rest on floor cushions and children's parents or carers are sent for. If children need medicines parents give their written consent and any dose given is recorded. Accidents are recorded and reported to those collecting children. There are sufficient first aid trained staff to ensure one such person is always on duty. Some staff have special training to meet the needs of children with very strong allergic reactions.

Children eat their packed lunches in comfort. They sit around tables in friendship groups chatting and eating. Staff encourage children to eat what they have brought and not only the sweet foods. Children have access to drinking water throughout the day and freely help themselves to the water jug in the kitchen. However, there are no clear strategies of how to meet the needs of children who are hungry between meals as the only food provided by the setting is lollies in the afternoon.

The outside adventure play area provides children with an exciting and enjoyable range of activities. They enjoy challenges offered by the complex climbing apparatus and swings. There is a ball pitch where children play football and learn new sports. The play scheme also has its own bouncy castle which children have fun on.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children's safety is not adequately protected by the weaknesses in the way their attendance and that of staff is recorded. The system of having three different registers, and expecting children and parents to be responsible for completing these results in attendance records being unreliable. They do not give clear information quickly and easily in the event of an emergency. In addition, they do not supply reliable evidence of exactly which children are present and when, and who was looking after them should there be a cause for concern. This is a regulation. Safety checks on the premises and the equipment promote children's safety.

Children are not fully safeguarded by the weaknesses in the safeguarding children policy and procedure. The new one does not include the to need inform Ofsted of child protection incidents on the premises or what happens if a member of staff is accused of harming a child. This is a regulation. Staff are aware of the signs to look out for and what to do if they have concerns about a child. They are clear about the importance of recording these concerns and who to tell.

The indoor and outdoor environments are welcoming and sufficiently spacious for the ages and numbers of children cared for. Photographs, and children's art work and models are displayed

indoors and contribute to the child friendly atmosphere. There is a wide variety of equipment for pretend play and art in low level storage.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy playing at the setting because there are good relationships between children and staff. Staff get involved and support children's play, for example, in refining their skills at table football and using the computers. Children respond well to the suggestions staff make for activities.

Children's creativity is encouraged. Some children made clothes out of black bin liners. They cut, glued and decorated the plastic to create all sorts of fun clothing. Staff put down a red carpet and children held a fashion show. Children also enjoy delving into the dressing up chest and using what they find there to enhance their imaginative play.

Children speak with enthusiasm about the play scheme. They say they enjoy being outside climbing and swinging, putting on music and singing, and stroking and looking after the rabbit. These were just some of the things they described. They also enjoy painting, modelling with clay and drawing. There is a workshop area where they can choose from a variety of resources. However, the workshop and pretend play areas are not always tidy and well set out so children can see all they have to choose from.

Children enjoy a wide range of outings. They visit such places as Princess Diana Park, a city farm and Thorpe Park. Children also like doing face and body painting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children benefit from some aspects of the partnership staff develop with parents but parents are not well informed about all aspects of the care the play scheme provides. The play scheme does not ensure that all parents receive clear information about what to do if they have a complaint, including who the regulator is and how to contact them, when children are first admitted. This is a regulation. Staff obtain all the relevant information about the children from parents and gain the appropriate written parental consent to ensure they know and can respect parents' wishes. There is a good relationship between staff and parents who chat to each other as children are brought and collected.

Children's own cultures are known and valued through the activities arranged by staff and the inclusive approach they have. Children are also able to find out about others who are from different backgrounds. Some of the fun activities that are arranged to encourage children to value each other's cultures include flag painting on paving stones outside and international days. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities attend; they are included and are helped by staff who work closely with parents. In addition, staff have developed links with other agencies to further support children.

Children understand the rules and generally behave well. They agree to a code of behaviour when they start and staff are on hand to help children sort out any disputes. Children are also helped to make a positive contribution to the community. Recently they painted large boards with bright designs and then mounted these in a nearby recycling bay to make it more attractive.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children's welfare and individual needs are not fully met by the systems in place for record keeping. The systems for recording children's attendance and that of staff do not ensure these are accurate. This is a regulation. All the required information about changes to the management committee have not been sent to the regulator within 14 days. This is a regulation.

Children are cared for by a committed staff team who are thoroughly checked for their suitability to work with children and sufficient staff have appropriate qualifications. In addition, there are appropriate procedures in place for protecting children from unchecked adults. Some staff are currently working towards a qualification and some have attended such training as food hygiene, first aid and including children with disabilities and learning difficulties.

However, policies and procedures are not well organised to ensure that only the most up to date ones are those that underpin practice and that these comply with regulations. The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection improvements have been made in response to the actions set to ensure that children are not left with unchecked adults and to carry out rigorous staff checks. Children's safety is now protected by these being in place. An action was made that parents should be asked for their consent in writing for all the appropriate aspects of their children's care and this is now done when children are first admitted. The action to record children, staff and visitors attending the play scheme has not been fully followed. Visitors now are recorded. However, the attendance register is still not fully effective in ensuring accurate records are maintained and that it includes the hours the children and staff are present.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and includes what to do if allegations are made against a member of staff
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint and the details of how to contact the regulator
- keep an accurate record of the days children attend including the times children are present and the names of staff looking after them
- notify Ofsted of what changes there have been to the management committee

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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