

St.Joan of Arc Extended School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY360189
Inspection date	22 May 2008
Inspector	Catherine Greene
Setting Address	St. Joan of Arc RC Primary School, Northolme Road, LONDON, N5 2UX
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Registered person	Highbury Roundhouse 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St. Joan of Arc Extended School is based at St Joan of Arc School in the Highbury area of the London borough of Islington. They have been registered since December 2007. There are currently 128 children on roll with no more than 35 attending at each session. They are managed by the management committee of the Highbury Roundhouse Association. Children have access to two halls and toilet facilities. The outdoor areas include a large playground and an astro turf area for sports games. The group operates during term time from Monday to Friday from 15.30 to 18.00. The setting employs four members of staff who are qualified or working towards NVQ Level 3 in play work.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from an environment that is maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. The accommodation used is cleaned daily by the school. Children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly and are independent in their self-care skills.

Children make very good use of the playground for physical exercise. They enjoy running around in fresh air as they develop their skills at football, badminton and team games. Children also benefit from the opportunities to participate in multi sport activities on the astro turf pitch.

Children's health is protected by policies for medication and staff are attentive to children if they are unwell or tired. However, staff including the manager have not renewed their first aid certificates and this is a breach of regulations.

Food is provided by the club during after school activities. Healthy topic and project work has raised children's awareness of the importance of healthy eating. Children are aware and have adapted their tastes to enjoy a more nutritious diet, which encourages mostly healthy choices.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are bright and welcoming for children. A range of equipment is used by the club and provides a challenging environment for children. Good use is made of the outdoor area which is very popular with children due to the range of activities on offer. All equipment and furniture is clean and in good condition.

Effective systems are in place for the safe arrival and departure of children. Children benefit from a spacious environment that is free from obvious safety hazards. Thorough risk assessments are carried out on the transportation of children between school classes and after school club and policies and procedures are in place to manage an emergency situation.

Children's welfare and safety is satisfactorily maintained because staff understand their responsibilities in safeguarding the children in their care. Fire safety drills are practised on a regular basis. Staff have been trained in identifying and reporting child protection issues and have a good level of support from the school.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy attending the after school club because they are happy and settled. Children are eager to join in and are keen to tell their parents what they have done when they are collected. Adults provide a calm environment where children are happy and confident; they ensure that children are well informed about what is going on through discussion time, where children choose what to do, and through the use of the children's suggestion box where their ideas and views are shared. This ensures that children are included and valued.

The children benefit from the well planned routine and activities at the after school club which include lots of art and craft activities, singing and dancing performances and physical play. Children love to perform and have been working very hard to put together a dance routine of Bollywood dance and music to be performed to parents. Care is taken to allow arts and crafts to be taken home, creating a link between home and their club and thereby fostering children's self-esteem. Good, warm, caring relationships between adults and children are evident, they communicate easily with each other. Staff discuss projects with the children at the planning stage to ensure that they are fully included in the decision making.

There is a balance of adult and child led activities. In the playground children enjoy playing with stilts and hula hoops and have become very skilled as they balance a number of hoops at

a time. Children are able to relax when they need to in the book area where there are a selection of books and plans to include floor cushions for their comfort.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are able to make independent choices when selecting activities and are able access a sufficient range of toys and resources that reflect diversity. The staff treat all the children as individuals; they know the children well and speak to them with respect.

Children are involved in developing their own ground rules of acceptable behaviour. Positive attitudes are encouraged and staff act as good role models. Children are aware of other people's needs and show respect for each other's ideas. Children's self-esteem is promoted by staff who use consistent praise and encouragement to support children, making them feel valued.

Children benefit from staff's good communication with parents in order to provide continuity of care. Parents are made aware of the organisational policies and procedures including the complaint procedure, however there is currently no separate log for recording complaints in line with regulations.

All children attending respond very well to the support of the staff and they settle easily into the routine. The staff team are well co-ordinated, offering a friendly and welcoming environment. Children openly share their views about the activities with comments such as, 'It's really good here we get to play really good football'.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in a relaxed and friendly environment. The space is clean and well maintained and children are able to access a range of activities and play equipment. The care of each child attending the after school club is enhanced by the commitment and support of the staff and manager. Adult to child ratios are appropriate for the needs of the children attending and staff are well deployed both inside and out. All staff undergo appropriate checks and there is a relevant induction programme to ensure that staff understand their responsibilities and policies and procedures are shared.

The person in charge of the play scheme is effective at assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the after school club through assessment of evaluation forms and feedback. This shows a commitment to evaluative practice and an ability to plan for and secure future improvements.

Children's health and welfare is well supported by a range of written policies and procedures. However, staff have not renewed their first aid certificates and this is a breach of regulations. Documentation for the day to day organisation such as attendance registers are used well to support the care of children.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- keep a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken
- make sure enough staff are trained in first aid to ensure that at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate is on the premises or on outings at any one time.

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