



Childsplay Holiday Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY249307
Inspection date 11 August 2005
Inspector Jennifer Read

Setting Address Cheltenham Bournside School & Sixth Form Centre, Warden Hill Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 3EF
Telephone number 01242 221491 x32079 School Hours
E-mail
Registered person Childsplay Holiday Playscheme Management Committee
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?

Childsplay Holiday Playscheme opened in 1979 and is run by a management committee. It operates from Bournside School in the residential area of Warden Hill in Cheltenham. The playscheme has use of nine classrooms, one upstairs classroom, sports hall and a staff room. There is an outdoor playing field for outside play. The playscheme is available to children of parents who work for Government Communications Headquarters, with a number of places available to outside agencies.

A maximum of 72 children may attend the playscheme at any one time. Children from

the age of 4 to 14 years may attend the club. There are currently 400 children on roll. The playscheme operates each week day, during all school holidays between 08.15 and 17.30. The playscheme supports children with special educational needs.

The playscheme employs a team of 23 staff on a rota basis, 12 staff work directly with the children on a daily basis. Half of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. Most staff have completed playwork training and have relevant childcare experience. Five staff, including the play leader are working towards a qualification. Teenage helpers assist at the playscheme on a rota basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene and care through well-planned daily routines. They know for example, that 'you can't see germs', 'makes us poorly' when they wash their hands before meal-times and after using the toilet, outside play and following art and craft activities. Children stay healthy because staff follow acceptable hygienic procedures and clear guidance when they are unwell. However, the toilet facilities are not consistently monitored to help prevent the spread of infection.

Children enjoy an extensive range of regular physical activities to promote a healthy lifestyle. They learn the importance of exercise and benefit from well-planned themes including 'Fit for Life'. Children talk about how to stay fit and healthy and discuss their favourite sports. They enthusiastically take part in cricket, football, rounders and numerous team games that contribute to their good health, help them develop control, new skills and self-confidence in their physical ability. Most staff hold first aid certificates which are regularly updated to ensure children receive suitable care for minor injuries.

Children benefit from a healthy diet because staff provide clear guidance to parents about food they supply. They gain very good knowledge and understanding of healthy, nutritious food through planned activities and tasting sessions, discussion about the nutritious value of food and visits to the supermarket. Children know for example, to eat five pieces of fruit and vegetables each day and know why apples are popular, 'They've got lots of vitamin C'. Children learn about different food to promote healthy living through participation in a quiz and word search game. Meal-times are inclusive and used effectively to help children enjoy their food and as a social occasion for everyone. However, children do share drinks with each other, which may put children's health at risk in the event of an allergy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a secure, welcoming and suitable setting because clear safety and security systems are well implemented. Staff monitor the entrance effectively,

and efficient and well-thought through plans are in place for the safe collection of children. Risk assessments are completed, however, these are not regularly reviewed and cover all new equipment to promote a safe environment for children. Children develop a good awareness of safety through practising the emergency escape plan weekly and discussing the reasons for this daily as a whole group. Sensitive reminders and useful questions by staff help increase children's awareness of everyday safety in the setting. As a result, children learn to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

Play areas are divided appropriately to enable children to use space safely for different activities. Displays of children's pictures, posters with various characters from films, and pictorial rules help make the premises cheerful and reinforce safety. Staff safeguard children because they know their roles well, are vigilant and comply with health and safety requirements when going on visits and outings. Staff help promote children's safety and welfare because they wear reflective waistcoats, take the mobile phone and first aid kit, give clear safety directives to children and organise visits from the road safety officer.

Children play with a comprehensive range of safe, well-maintained and developmentally appropriate toys, games and play materials. These are organised on child-height tables or in large containers on the floor to enable children to reach them safely. Children's welfare is well protected because adults who have relevant experience and skills care for them. The play organiser introduces all visitors to the children and ensures that child protection procedures are kept up-to-date, staff attend training where possible and show a satisfactory awareness of the types of abuse, signs to look for and understanding of the procedure to follow with any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, and experience an extensive range of high quality activities and play opportunities indoors and outdoors. Children take an active part in the setting and plan successfully in conjunction with the staff, which means their interests are well met. Children are confident speakers and share their ideas and feelings willingly. They are friendly and relate appropriately with each other, visitors and staff, and enjoy many opportunities to work together and share resources. Staff join in children's play and provide support and encouragement, which enables them to try new activities and build positive relationships. Older children show concern for others and enjoy the responsibility of helping the younger children during activities and daily routines.

Children settle quickly to free play with toys and activities of their choice. They develop self-assurance and independence through use of a wide range of creative materials and recyclable media to represent their experiences. For instance, they explore painting with electric toothbrushes, design patterns on pottery and sun hats, learn about outdoor cookery, investigate how to use memory capsules with photographs and join in numerous art and craft activities. Regular trips, outings and visitors to the playscheme expand children's experiences, which help keep their play

fun and interesting.

Children use dressing-up clothes, home corner equipment, puppets and small world toys to develop their imaginative play. Groups of children play happily, as they challenge each other to games of air hockey, chess, snooker and many board games. They show interest in what they do and concentrate for long periods as they eagerly complete the word search and healthy food quiz.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a positive and effective partnership with parents and staff. Informative notice boards, a parent prospectus, plans of activities and access to policies and procedures help keep parents well informed about the setting. Parents use the suggestion box positively to contribute ideas to take an active part in their child's care and play. Parent questionnaires and daily conversations help staff and parents work well together to promote children's welfare and individual needs.

Children are valued as individuals and those with special needs are warmly welcomed. The playscheme has effective arrangements to care for children with special needs, for instance, they employ additional staff and adapt activities and resources to promote an inclusive approach. Children gain good understanding about the wider world through celebrating festivals, tasting food from a variety of cultures and access to a good range of play resources, which reflect our multi-cultural society. Children learn about their local community as they visit places of interest.

Children behave well and respond positively to staff's frequent praise and encouragement. This values children's achievements and helps promote their self-esteem. Staff encourage children to resolve their own differences which helps them learn to share and take turns. They begin to understand right and wrong through consistent boundaries and the staff's calm, positive approach to manage their behaviour. This means children become aware of the playscheme's routines and know what is expected of them.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from committed and enthusiastic staff. They work well together to support children's wellbeing and encourage their interests. The play organiser has a clear vision for the playscheme and monitors the setting's strengths and weaknesses appropriately. She works closely with staff, parents and the management committee to evaluate and improve the quality of care and experiences for children. For example, training is available for all staff and is positively encouraged. Appropriate recruitment and induction procedures help ensure children are happy, settled and never left alone with persons not vetted.

Space is used purposefully and activities presented appropriately to encourage

children's safety, good health and enjoyment. Well-written policies and procedures are usefully organised in accordance with the National Standards and work well in practise to promote children's care. Copies of all policies are given to all staff and displayed for parents. Staff maintain clear, accurate records and documentation to ensure children's individual needs are met and they take part in activities agreed with by parents. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended the complaints procedure included the Ofsted contact details; the lost and uncollected child policy was available for inspection and the person-in-charge completed training to level 3 standard.

The playscheme has made good improvements to promote children's welfare. The complaints procedure highlights the Ofsted telephone number, however the address is not included. The lost and uncollected child policies are detailed and available in the well-organised policy folder. The person-in-charge is currently working towards a level 3 qualification to ensure children are protected and training and qualification requirements are met.

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.

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):

- improve the cleanliness of the toilets to prevent the spread of infection and promote children's health care needs.
- take positive steps to promote children's safety and ensure risk assessments are regularly reviewed and identify potential risks both indoors and out including equipment, materials and the premises.

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