

Surrey Square After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY356048
Inspection date	11 August 2008
Inspector	Tom Radcliffe
Setting Address	Surrey Square Infant School, Surrey Square, LONDON, SE17 2JY
Telephone number	07983 082286
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Registered person	Surrey Square After School Club Ltd
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?

Surrey Square After School Club is an Out of School provision run by a company. It opened in 2007 and operates from a hall and two rooms of Sutton Square Junior School and Sutton Square Infant School in Walworth in the London borough of Southwark. A maximum of 24 children under the age of eight years may attend the provision at any one time. Surrey Square After School Club also provides care for children aged from eight to eleven. The provision is open each weekday from 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.30 to 18.00 during term time and 08.00 to 18.00 in school holidays. All children share access to secure, enclosed, outdoor play areas.

There are currently 25 children aged from four to under eight years on roll. Children attending are pupils of Surrey Square Infant or Surrey Square Junior School.

The provision employs four members of staff, all hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development Childcare Partnership. (EYDCP)

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The premises that children use are maintained in a very clean and hygienic condition with staff ensuring that all facilities are suitably prepared for the arrival of children. The setting uses effective accident and medication procedures to ensure that children's good health is promoted and all children can be cared for if they sustain a minor injury as qualified staff have access to appropriate first aid equipment. In addition, children's good health and well-being is further promoted as the setting excludes children who are infectious and has obtained written parental permission to seek any emergency treatment or advice that may prove necessary. Children in the setting are encouraged to think about the importance of personal hygiene and healthy life choices; as a result, children wash their hands at regular intervals during the day and are aware of the positive benefits of exercise and healthy diets.

The physical development made by the children in the setting is good. Children have access to a very wide range of activities both indoors and outdoors that promote important skills, abilities and their enjoyment and confidence when taking part. Children freely choose resources independently or take part in well organised activities; for example, children play with puzzles, games, or craft activities individually or in small groups while also playing team games of cricket or activities in a sports day. The setting makes very good use of its outdoor facilities to promote physical development and staff support children very well as they encourage all children to take part and praise their contributions and progress. The setting enhances its very good provision by regularly using additional play resources and activities within the locality; for example, adventure play grounds and soft play areas.

The children bring packed lunches with them to the holiday play scheme. The staff encourage parents to provide healthy food options and ensure that all food is stored appropriately. To ensure that children have sufficient food while in the setting they are provided with breakfasts and light snacks and children have free access to fresh drinking water at all times. All the children's individual dietary needs and requirements are well known and met, with the manager maintaining accurate written records to ensure that this policy is effectively implemented.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are secure and safe for children. Staff monitor all visitors onto the site and welcome all children as they arrive, the premises in use by the holiday play scheme are clearly marked out and access is through controlled points. Though the staff are vigilant as they undertake this process, access is gained through external gates which are not always locked as children arrive in the morning. The setting pays close attention to the welfare of all children and has in place effective procedures to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded. Staff implement clear guidelines to ensure that they can recognise signs of potential concern and can confidently pass these on to ensure that children's best interests are promoted. Children are able to keep themselves safe in the event of an emergency as the setting has in place adequate emergency evacuation procedures; for example, children are aware of evacuation routes and assembly points. The out of school club has access to well maintained fire detection and control equipment.

The setting uses effective risk assessments and health and safety procedures to ensure that children do not face unnecessary hazards as they learn and play. Consideration is given to the storage of equipment to promote both safety and accessibility. In addition, the setting ensures that all facilities and resources are checked for ongoing safety, that appropriate levels of supervision are always maintained and all outings are thoroughly planned to ensure children's enjoyment and safety. Staff maintain the play environment well so that free movement is made possible with children accessing a range of activities safely. Staff are made aware of the requirements of the setting's health and safety requirements through an effective induction policy and on-going training.

Children have access to a range of toys and resources that are well maintained, clean and appropriate to their interests, ages and levels of development. The child-friendly, spacious accommodation in use by the setting is well organised, with staff supporting children well as they undertake a range of interesting activities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the holiday play scheme as they access a range of activities through free choice or as they work with an adult lead. Children's independence is promoted well as they actively decide how they will spend their time or negotiate the activities that they undertake with adults; for example, a group of children decided to use messy play equipment rather than join in with an organised sports game. There is a good balance of free choice and adult led activities as all children play with enthusiasm and enjoyment. Children settle very quickly into their routines as adults initiate conversations with them or as they select activities to play with. Children react very positively with adults and this helps children to grow in confidence and promotes their self-esteem. All activities are carefully planned and include purposeful activity away from the play scheme's premises; for example, when children use additional play equipment. Children are able to play and learn in groups of varying sizes and composition; for example, individual children use books or games, small groups play with scooters or art equipment and larger groups arrange football or cricket competitions. Staff ensure that all children's needs are met and that all children receive the support that they need. This is undertaken very skilfully as children play an active part in deciding what they do but also benefit from well planned activities. The staff know the children very well, which underpins their effectiveness as they play with them, for example, staff arrange the time and support that they give children accurately depending on individual need. Children are given many opportunities to use their imaginations as they make jewellery, kites and junk models, while also enjoying cooking and printing.

The relationships in the setting are good as children play in a relaxed environment with effective support from adults. Staff are positive role models who have high expectations of the children's participation and cooperation. This has a very positive impact upon the children as they show a good understanding of how to avoid unwanted behaviour, use their time very well and have a good grasp of the difference between right and wrong.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are treated with equal concern and staff promote equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice for all children. The setting ensures that all children are included in all activities and that it has a complete understanding of the needs of individual children so that

they can plan effectively to meet them with the provision of appropriate support and activities. This is made possible by very effective systems that are in place to collect information about children when they register to take part in the play scheme. The approach of staff and relationship with children ensures that children play an active part in the setting, which promotes mature behaviour from the children. The setting uses resources and activities that promote positive images of activities; for example, books, posters and toys. Children with special needs are very well accommodated within the setting as the play scheme liaises very well with schools and other agencies to ensure that these children are well supported and have access to suitably challenging activities. Staff also support these children very well with a sensitive approach to them; for example, when deciding the support that is required or where children can play more independently.

The behaviour management strategies in use within the setting are very effective. Staff are friendly and relaxed as they maintain consistent and clearly understood boundaries. The atmosphere in the setting is very good with children managing their own behaviour; for example, children decided amongst themselves how to use outdoor space when playing games so that they did not interfere with each other's activities.

The setting has developed an effective working partnership with parents. There is good parental involvement both formally in planned meetings and informally through daily contacts. The setting has clear policies and procedures available to all users of the holiday play scheme and the manager ensures that feedback from parents gained through surveys and questionnaires is used to enhance the level of provision.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The provider has established effective recruitment procedures which help to ensure that staff employed are suitable to work with children. All staff are experienced and well qualified, which ensures that they have a good understanding of how children learn through play and first hand experiences. Staff undergo effective periods of induction and training needs are identified and met to ensure that their skills are updated regularly. The manager ensures that children take part in interesting and well planned activities and that all resources and accommodation support planned activities well. Staff deployment promotes the development and involvement of children very well. Children's care and welfare needs are given very good attention and the setting ensures that all necessary records are accurately maintained and confidentially stored.

All National Standards are met and all necessary policies and procedures are in place to ensure the effective and safe management of the setting. However, children's safety can be compromised as they arrive in the setting due to the absence of locked gates. Children enjoy their time in the spacious setting and they acquire important skills in order to make and understand decisions about healthy life choices and staying safe. The setting 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 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):

- review the procedures for access to the setting in order to maximise children's safety at all times.

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