

Mount Carmel Early Care and Education Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY373865
Inspection date	27/11/2008
Inspector	Tom Radcliffe
Setting address	18 Eden Grove, Off Holloway Road, LONDON, N7 8EQ
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Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the setting

Mount Carmel Early Care and Education Centre is run by an established provider, Bright Horizons. It opened in 2008 and operates from five group rooms and a baby unit in a single storey purpose-built building. It is situated in a residential area in Holloway in the London borough of Islington. A maximum of 84 children may attend the setting at anytime. The nursery is open each weekday from 07.30 to 18.30 all year round. All children share access to two secure, enclosed outdoor play areas. There are currently 17 early years children on roll. The setting is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The nursery serves the local and wider area. The nursery employs four members of staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

All staff in the setting have a good understanding of each child's individual needs which results in children's welfare and learning being promoted very well. Children thrive in a safe and secure environment which is carefully planned, very well resourced and child friendly. The setting has very effective partnerships with parents which helps to ensure that children's needs are met. Children make good progress while in the setting, given their age, ability and starting points. The setting uses very effective processes of self-evaluation, this results in a service which is committed to continuous improvement and which responds to the needs of all its users.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- continue to develop the educational programmes for children so that they make progress towards the early learning goals.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Senior staff and the provider manage the setting very efficiently, safely and in the interests of all children. All necessary procedures and policies are in place which all staff understand and effectively implement. The setting ensures that children are very well safeguarded at all times; for example, the suitability of staff is rigorously checked and children play with the skilful support of well deployed and caring staff. The play environment that children freely access is stimulating and provides opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors. In addition, children's safety is promoted in a carefully monitored setting where hazards are reduced and effective risk assessments are in place. As a result, for example, trip hazards are minimised, outside equipment is checked prior to use and children undertake useful outings into the community safely. Children's good health and well-being is given very

good attention by staff as they are effectively cared for if they sustain a minor accident. In addition, children are given age appropriate activities from which they gain a growing understanding of healthy life choices and personal hygiene.

The setting has in place very effective self-evaluation processes which successfully underpin its wish to continuously improve. This is an outstanding feature of the setting's work. The provider and senior staff carefully audit all aspects of the setting and its working relationship with parents to gain valuable information. They use this to make effective plans to enhance their provision. The setting has very high expectations of the service that it wants to provide and works effectively to achieve these aspirations.

The setting has a good partnership with parents and carer. Parents value the quality and clarity of written policies and procedures. In addition, the setting's effective approach to settling children into the centre is appreciated as are all links both formal and informal. The setting uses information and ideas from parents to enhance its work and parents consider that staff are professional and supportive.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children in the setting show positive indications that they are starting to make good progress in all areas of learning and development. Staff accommodate the preferences of children very well and promote their independence as they select activities in well resourced and organised activity rooms. Staff use careful observations on children to gain a good understanding of them as individuals. This allows staff to judge what children are interested in, know the level of support that children require and evaluate the progress that individual children make. The setting has an effective planning system in place to provide children of all ages with suitable activities that are based upon their needs and interests. Staff use careful assessments and well judged decisions to design future plans based on their very understanding of what children should do next. The centre intends to continue to develop the educational programmes that it has in place over time so that children will make expected progress towards the early learning goals. Children are able to spend their time in free play selecting from activities that include messy play, sharing books, floor activities and the use of outdoor equipment. Children use the outdoor areas very enthusiastically including when umbrellas were necessary. Staff make these play sessions outdoors exciting and full of fun. As children play there is a very positive atmosphere in the setting, staff support the children very well and children enjoy the opportunity to follow their interests and make decisions. All children interact well with each other and with adults; they quickly become engaged in activities and work in groups of varying sizes harmoniously and with purpose. The behaviour in the setting is managed very well as staff support children effectively and ensure that the entire range of their needs are met.

The setting shows a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and of how young children learn. The learning environment is very well arranged to ensure that children are able to develop and make progress in all areas of learning. As a result children have opportunities to learn about writing and spoken language,

use numbers, listen to music and have valuable experiences within the local community through visits. In addition, children have access to computers and everyday technology to support their learning and development. Staff ensure that all activities are age appropriate and the areas used by the younger children are stimulating with suitable equipment and resources. Children's language development is very good throughout the setting with children becoming more confident speakers. The staff actively promote the children's language development as they ask questions and involve children in conversations.

The setting implements its effective policies and procedures very well which ensures that children's welfare is promoted. Children enjoy their time in a safe and secure environment, are safeguarded and spend their time undertaking interesting and challenging activities. Children show a growing understanding of their own health and safety and achieve very positive outcomes. All children make progress and show good levels of independence and confidence.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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.