



Playmates Fun Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	404581
Inspection date	01 August 2006
Inspector	Zoe Smith
Setting Address	Lower Fold, Marple Bridge, Stockport, Cheshire, SK6 5DU
Telephone number	0161 427 1446
E-mail	
Registered person	Jill Diane Drabble
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?

Playmates Fun Club was registered in 2001. It operates from Ludworth School in the Marple Bridge district of Stockport. Rooms used comprise of the school hall and a demountable classroom. The group provides out of school day care for children who attend Ludworth Primary School during school term times and to all children during school holidays. It is open from 8.00 to 08.50 and 15.15 to 18.00 every weekday during term time only and from 08.30 to 17.30 during all school holidays, except Christmas. The group is registered to care for 60 children, there are currently 100 children on roll, of these 75 are aged from three to eight years. The group supports children who have learning difficulties and disabilities. The group is privately owned.

The registered person is also the manager. She takes responsibility for the day to day running, management and organisation of the group and is assisted by six members of staff. Most of the staff employed have a recognised childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are actively encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle. They participate in an extensive range of physical play activities that provide them with plenty of fresh air and exercise. They enthusiastically complete assault courses, ride their bicycles and scooters, and participate in team games, such as football and cricket. When the weather is inclement and children cannot play outside, there are still lots of opportunities for them to exert energy. They eagerly join in music and movement, play ring games and dance.

The premises are maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. Sensible hygiene practices and routines are implemented to reduce the risk of cross contamination and spread of infection. Children know to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The children are well supervised by staff. This reduces the risk of accident and injury to them. However, a member of staff with a current first aid training certificate isn't always on the premises at any one time. This is a breach of regulations.

Food and drink is provided by parents in school holidays and by the group in school term times. The group ensure children enjoy a varied and nutritious diet that includes fresh fruit, raw vegetables and salad. Children receive food and drinks in sufficient quantities to meet their needs. Fresh drinking water is readily available for children to quench their thirst. Children participate in activities that reinforce the benefits of healthy eating. They have made collages using fruit, and enjoy making and eating fruit kebabs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well maintained environment. A risk assessment of the premises has been conducted. Most potential risks have been identified and sensible safety precautions put in place to minimise them. However, exposed plug sockets pose a risk to the children's safety. Written fire procedures and fire fighting equipment are in place. However, practise fire drills are not conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure staff and children are proficient in emergency evacuation procedures. Children are constantly and directly supervised at all times. They adhere to the agreed boundaries and rules that protect them from accident and injury. Children know they must wear a safety hat when riding a bicycle and not to climb on the furniture. They choose what to play with from a wide range of good quality resources

that are suitable for their age and stage of development. The safety and protection of children is of importance to staff. They have a good understanding of child protection and their responsibility to take immediate action should they have concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children take the lead in how they spend their time, independently choosing and instigating their own play and activities. There is lots of fun and activity as they play. A wide variety of activities, toys and resources are provided, that are designed to stimulate the children's interest and to be enjoyable. Physical activities, snooker, computer games and creative activities are firm favourites. Children enthusiastically participate in a good range of messy and creative activities, such as sand, paint, modelling clay, cutting and sticking. They eagerly make necklaces and cut out masks, paint them and then decorate them with beads. Children carefully spread the dry sand out and then use a range of tools to write their name, make patterns and draw pictures in it. Children have time to relax as well as to be active. They enjoy playing computer games, sitting quietly in the book corner and listening to stories with a member of staff.

Children regularly participate in competitive games, such as snooker, cricket, board games and cards. These activities are helping them to learn rules, play fairly and take turns. Small groups of children become engrossed in role play, they dress up in an array of different clothes and hats, stroll round the room and play in the dens they have made from furniture. Children become engrossed with the small world imaginative toys. They take the horses for rides through the zoo before taking them back to the stables and feeding them. Children are captivated when they play with remote controlled toys, skilfully manoeuvring the Dalek round each other and the furniture. All staff members have good relationships with children and are friendly and approachable. They know when to join in to support and facilitate the children's play and when not to, in case they interrupt activities. This provides children with a good balance between having plenty of freedom and safe limits.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have access to a good range of resources and activities that provide and promote positive images of gender, culture and disability. At Chinese New Year they tasted food, made masks and lanterns and found out about lucky red money wallets. These activities help children to find out about the wider world, to respect and understand others. The group are proactive in welcoming children with learning difficulties and disabilities into their care. All children are valued and take a full part in the group.

Children play an active role in the running and organisation of the group. Questionnaires and meetings between them and staff, provide opportunities to discuss issues and for children to make suggestions and ideas. If at all possible, the

children's requests and ideas are taken up. This enables children to take ownership of and responsibility for what happens at the group. Positive methods are used to manage challenging, and promote good behaviour. Meaningful praise and recognition is given to children for their efforts and achievements. Children happily share and take turns, adhere to the boundaries and behave well.

There is an effective partnership with parents. They are greeted in a welcoming, friendly and relaxed manner by staff. Positive steps are taken to ensure parents are kept informed about all relevant policies and procedures. Daily discussions keep them up-to-date about their child's, progress and any issues.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the friendly and busy environment. The group is well organised and reflects that children are spending their leisure time there. The main hall is divided into different types of play and activity areas, with resources and equipment in easy reach and access. Children receive lots of encouragement, support and attention from staff. The group has a consistent and stable team of staff, which ensures continuity of care for the children. Most records and documentation are in place, appropriately maintained and stored. However, a record of staff attendance is not consistently kept. Sensible policies and procedures are used to underpin the care provided and promote the well-being of children. Effective recruitment and selection procedures are in place to ensure the suitability of staff.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection five recommendations were made to improve the care provided. A risk assessment of the premises has been conducted and the group have negotiated sole access to the premises during its hours of operation. A written medication administration policy and written procedures for lost and uncollected children have been formalised. The address and telephone number of Ofsted is now included in the complaints procedure. These improvements have helped to ensure spatial requirements are met, the well-being of children is promoted and risks to them are minimised.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. The provider is required to keep a record of all 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):

- ensure there is at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate on the premises or on outings at any one time
- make sure electrical sockets are safe
- conduct regular practise fire drills
- devise a system for registering staff attendance on a daily basis, showing hours of attendance.

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