

Butterfly After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY359744
Inspection date 02/10/2008
Inspector Gillian Cubitt

Setting address St Martins Community Centre, Abbots Park Road St Martins Estate, London, SW2 3PW

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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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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

The Butterfly out of school club opened in 2008 and is privately owned. It operates from the St. Martin's Community Hall which is located on the St. Martins Estate in Tulse Hill in the London Borough of Lambeth. Children have access to one large room and an enclosed outdoor play area. There is a separate kitchen.

The club is open each weekday from 15.00 to 18.00 during school term times. There are four places for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The club also offers 20 places for children aged between six and 11 years; this provision is registered on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. Children occupying these places share the same facilities as the children in the early years age range. Children attend from local schools in the area, including Holy Trinity Primary School, Jubilee Primary School, Christ Church and St. Helen's Primary School. Children are collected each day and taken to the club.

There are three permanent staff members; all of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications. There are also three volunteer helpers one of whom is working towards a level 2 qualification in childcare.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The lack of the provider's knowledge and understanding of the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage means that the provision does not adequately provide for children under the age of five years of age. Children generally enjoy their time with the older children. They play with the available resources but there are no individual assessments made on them that help staff to plan a balanced curriculum for their individual needs. Children are generally safe in a secure environment although the vetting of staff is not sufficiently thorough. Parents are warmly welcomed into the setting although they have not been informed of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage which ensure that this age group is appropriately included in the planning. Although this setting is relatively new they have not yet established written policies and procedures and also systems to help them to assess and improve on their current provision.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- ensure that the required written copies of policies and procedures are available to staff, volunteers and parents so that guidance is clear on safeguarding children, procedures for administering medicines and how parents can raise a concern or a complaint

23/10/2008

- (safeguarding and welfare: documentation)
 - improve organisation to ensure that Ofsted is informed of significant events such as the change of the person who is managing the early years provision (suitable people) 23/10/2008
 - implement systems so that all staff are aware of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how to observe and assess children to help them make progress towards the early learning goals (Learning and Development: Early Learning Goals) 23/10/2008
 - take immediate steps to ensure that staff whose suitability checks have not been completed do not have unsupervised contact with children (suitable people) 06/10/2008
- To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- ensure that drinking water is accessible for children to help themselves at all times
- provide more free flow access to outside play

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The provision offers an informal friendly environment for children who attend after school. There is, however, an unfocussed approach and children's individual learning and development needs in the Early Years Foundation Stage are not observed. Management roles have not been clearly defined and the regulator has not been informed of changes in lead staff. This lack of direction has impacted on staff who have not been sufficiently trained in how to observe and assess children's progress using the statutory framework guidelines. Although the setting has been recently registered they have not yet made any steps to show how they plan to improve the setting. For example, how the needs of children in the early years are included into the overall planning of the after school provision.

Children are generally well safeguarded because the setting is very secure and staff supervise children closely especially on the journey from school to the club. Most staff are vetted because they are established and experienced child carers who have current checks in place. However, some volunteers have not had their checks cleared before they supervise children which impacts on children's safety. A further weakness arises in that there is a lack of documentation showing policies and procedures to guide staff and inform parents. This is particularly relevant with regard to safeguarding children and how parents proceed to make a complaint.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The insufficient understanding and knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage means that children are not being offered suitable experiences which support them in making progress towards the early learning goals. Children settle generally well within the friendly environment comprising mainly of children in the older age group

of the Childcare register. Children therefore learn and develop through interaction with the older children and staff and not through pre-planned activities that are the result of observation of what children do. For although the children appear generally occupied there is not a balanced curriculum to support their learning and development in all areas. Some resources engage children well and they happily chat about what they are doing. Available books are appropriate to young children and show an acceptable variety to engage them to look at pictures and construct a story. However, most activities are prepared as a general plan and are not adapted for the needs of the children in the Early Years. Older children take the lead as most activities are centred on their wishes. For example, painting is available but with fine paintbrushes and small watercolour palettes. Younger children do not engage in other activities such as cards although they eagerly watch as older children construct spinning tops from Lego pieces and make an attempt to copy. Children's interest in games such as 'Hungry Frogs' is short lived due to the lack of others to participate.

Staff encourage children to be friendly and share and help each other which promotes children's awareness of the needs of others. Children learn about the peacemakers in history, such as Martin Luther King. They learn new words such as 'integrate' and 'boycott' although group time is not appropriately adapted to the level of understanding for younger children.

Children's health is supported because they learn about hygiene. They follow daily routines of washing hands before they have their evening tea. They also benefit from nutritious snacks such as spaghetti hoops and scrambled egg followed by cut fruit which is prepared by the staff. The omission of easily accessible water, however, means that some children do not receive a drink unless they go to the kitchen and ask. Outside play is not on a free access basis as the children wait until they have had their tea. Equipment such as the small slide is appropriate for small children but older children tend to dominate this activity which impacts on the enjoyment of children in the Early Years age group.

Parents contribute by completing registration details which cover children's care needs. They feel confident that their children are safe within the setting although they do not receive sufficient information that keeps them informed about how the club is organised and their children's progress whilst attending.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

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

Overall effectiveness

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

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

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

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action.

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.