

MJS Simply-Play @ Thorntree

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number

EY306221

Inspection date

23/09/2008

Inspector

Sue Vale

Setting address

Thorntree School, Pound Park Road, London, SE7 8AE

Telephone number

Email

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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

Thorntree After School Club has been operating since 2005. The club is provided by MJS Simply-Play Ltd. Children are accommodated in one room in the Thorntree Primary School building, with access to toilet facilities on the ground level. The club also has use of the outdoor playgrounds.

The after school club is on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of 26 children aged four to eight years may attend the after school club at any one time; children aged eight years and over are also accommodated. The club is open each weekday from 07:30 to 09:00 and 15:30 to 18:00 during term time, and from 08:30 to 17:30 when it operates during the school holidays.

There are currently 22 children on roll. Most children who attend are from Thorntree School, where the club is situated; others attend from neighbouring schools. The setting supports children with special educational needs. There are currently no children attending who speak English as an additional language.

There are three full-time staff working with the children in the after school club. The manager and one other member of staff hold National Vocational Qualifications at level 3.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision at MJS Simply-Play after school club is satisfactory and it provides effectively for children in its care. The provision promotes inclusive practice very well. All children are welcomed and their individual needs and requirements are catered for. The after school club is led and managed satisfactorily by the newly appointed leader, and she is well supported by the other staff, and the owner. Consequently, there is satisfactory capacity for the provision to make continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- review and update the after school club action plan and self evaluation forms in light of the new EYFS framework
- make observations and review planning for the younger children in the setting

The leadership and management of the early years provision

There is satisfactory leadership and management that ensures the children learn and play in a safe environment. The staff value the children's contributions and

ensure that all children are included and enjoy their time in the after school club. There is good teamwork amongst the staff. Sessions are well resourced and carefully planned so that the children have fun.

The staff supervise the children very well, which has a positive impact on the children's welfare and safety. A very strong feature is the way all the children are encouraged to take part and their interests are taken into account, for example at the time of the inspection the children were learning how to cross stitch.

There are good arrangements in place to safeguard the children. The staff team are qualified to care for young children, including appropriate first aid in paediatric childcare. They are vigilant and ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place to supervise and support children both indoors and outdoors.

The newly appointed manager is reviewing current practice, and, in the three weeks in which she has been in post, she has already made some improvements in the way that things are recorded. However self-evaluation is not yet formalised or recorded sufficiently to provide clear priorities for improvement in the after school club's action plan.

There are satisfactory links with both parents and the school in which the after school club is held.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children enjoy attending the club and play freely and harmoniously with the activities available to them. They are encouraged to behave well and to have good manners towards one another, which enhances their feeling of security. Behaviour is good and children have a strong sense of what is right and wrong. They develop a positive sense of belonging to the club and recount enthusiastically all the good things about it. They respond well to the encouragement and praise given by the adults.

Activities on offer are well thought out, although there are no formal recordings or observations of children's knowledge, understanding and interests. This would allow an even greater link between children's interests and abilities and the activities on offer and ensure that children made even greater progress in their learning and development. Children have good opportunities to learn through play. Many of the children's interests are specifically catered for, such as creative or physical choices of play. There is a quiet area set aside for those who do not always wish to be involved in the hustle and bustle of play. Here children can sit and read quietly, and during the time of the inspection this was much appreciated by one child.

Children are also encouraged to support each other and older children frequently seek out the younger ones to help and support them in their play. Staff in the setting have worked hard to provide a safe and welcoming environment in which risk is minimised, and children are encouraged to be independent.

Children are taught good health and hygiene practices, and enjoy a substantial

healthy snack during the evening, such as baked beans on toast. They are taught about healthy eating and drinking and about the need for exercise to keep fit. Children have access to the school playground and enjoy football and other physical activities.

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? | 3 |
| How well does the provision promote inclusive practice? | 2 |
| The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement. | 3 |

Leadership and management

| | |
|---|---|
| How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed? | 3 |
| How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement? | 3 |
| How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others? | 3 |
| 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

Since the last inspection, Ofsted has received one complaint that required the provider to take action. This complaint related to child protection. The registration of the setting was suspended whilst investigations were undertaken by the appropriate statutory agencies. When the investigations were concluded satisfactorily by the other statutory agencies, the suspension was lifted. Ofsted carried out a follow up visit which resulted in an action being set for the provider to ensure that the child protection procedure complies with the requirements of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and Ofsted. A response was received from the provider who demonstrated that action had been met appropriately. The provider remained suitable for registration at the time the investigation was closed.

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.