

Tinies Childcare

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY361426
Inspection date 31/10/2008
Inspector Naomi Brown

Setting address H M Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, LONDON, SW1A 2HQ

Telephone number 0207 3840 322
Email l.chevis@tinies.com
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 play scheme was registered in 2005 and was taken over by Tinies UK Ltd. in 2007. It operates from two rooms in the main building at the Treasury in Whitehall. Premises are within easy reach of transport routes, parks and shops. The rooms are accessed through the main entrance of the Treasury building and are accessible by lift. There is no outdoor play area and children are taken to the park for outdoor play. The play scheme is open to the children of parents employed at the Treasury and other government departments. A maximum of 16 children may attend at any one time and there are currently 16 on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions and children with special needs or who speak English as an additional language are supported. The play scheme opens holiday times from Monday to Friday 08:30 to 17:30. A team of four staff work with the children. The manager and her deputy have early years qualifications and two other members of staff are working towards a qualification. The setting is registered on the Early Years register and also on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children enjoy their time at the play scheme and are well supported by staff who take good steps to meet their needs. Resources are well managed to meet children's individual needs and children access the wide range of activities on offer to them with enthusiasm and purpose. Parents are involved in the setting and have opportunities to comment on aspects of their children's care. This underpins children's good progress and supports their development as confident learners. Although the accident book is not consistently signed by parents, which does impact on children's safety, overall, policies and procedures support children's development in a safe and welcoming environment.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that all accident records are consistently signed by parents
- amend the observation and assessment system so that the needs of more or less able children can be reflected in planning

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that at least half of all persons caring for children have successfully completed a qualification at a minimum of level 2 in a relevant area of work (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)

22/12/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The manager of the setting is well organised and committed to managing improvements for all children. They benefit from her visible enthusiasm for providing engaging and purposeful activities. This is matched by that of her staff team who work well together to promote children's inquisitive natures and develop their critical thinking. Daily plans provide a good balance of adult and child led activities, both in the setting and outdoors in a range of different environments including local parks and museums. However, plans do not currently show strong differentiation for less and more able children which means that children are not always fully challenged to maximise their progress.

Records, policies and procedures are well written to promote children's welfare and all staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities throughout the day. While staff:child ratios are met at all times, the setting does not consistently meet the qualification requirements of the Early Years and Compulsory Childcare registers as less than fifty percent of staff present on the day of the inspection were qualified to NVQ level two. However, the manager is aware of this requirement and has arranged for unqualified staff to work towards these qualifications. All staff are aware of recent updates to requirements of the setting through the EYFS, though the manager has identified that staff need to undertake more training to become confident with formal assessment and observation systems. However, current methods of observation and assessment are suitable and staff demonstrate good knowledge of the needs of children in their care, which underpins their good progress. The manager has mechanisms in place to identify strengths and weaknesses of the setting and consults staff and parents to make well rounded judgements. This suggests that the setting has a strong capacity to improve opportunities for children. The manager ensures that risk assessments are completed regularly to maintain a suitable environment for children and the setting is safe and suitable for children's use.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are making good progress within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). They are supported by enthusiastic staff who have a clear understanding of how children effectively develop and learn. Planning for everyday activities involves children's views to ensure that they are interested and motivated learners. Staff use a good range of open questions to stimulate their natural curiosity and use lively conversations to encourage their understanding of a number of issues. For example, children and staff discuss why you should not call 999 unless there is an emergency. Resources fully cover all areas of the curriculum and these are used well by staff to encourage children to progress. Staff sit with children while they eat meals and snacks and this underpins the development of good social skills and table manners. Children also chat happily with each other and clearly enjoy sitting together at mealtimes and in small activity groups, working cooperatively to take part in dance and singing activities.

Children have good opportunities for outdoor play to enhance their physical

development and to support their good health. Visits to local parks, museums and attractions ensure that they experience a varied range of activities that stimulate their curiosity and interest as learners and children clearly enjoy the outings that they take part in. Well resourced craft and cooking activities encourage children to develop their concentration skills as they decorate a range of biscuits with designs of their choice. Staff praise children for their achievements and encourage them to extend activities that they have started, for example, making a costume to match a mask they have made. This challenges children and helps them to make good progress.

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.	2

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?	2
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:

Not Met (with actions)

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

Met

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Qualifications and Training)

22/12/2008

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 the last inspection.

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.