



Barnardos Summer Play scheme 2001

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 502502
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Inspector Carys Millican

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Registered person Barnardos
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Barnado's Holiday Play Scheme is run by the Barnardo's organisation. It opened in 2000 and operates from the Bowling Green Club House, situated within a park on the outskirts of Wigton. The play scheme is an open access scheme. Children have access to the main bowls clubroom and the toilets are located in a separate building close by, children are escorted to and from the toilets by staff. A maximum of 26 children may attend at any one time. The holiday play scheme operates Monday and Tuesday 10.00 - 12.00 and 13.00 - 15.00 (times and days vary according to demand). The scheme has access to the surrounding parkland; children can use the park for outdoor play subject to written parental consent and staff supervision.

There are currently 20 children aged from 5 to under 8 years on roll. Children under 8 years attend a morning session. Older children aged up to 11 years attend an afternoon session. There are no children aged under 5 years. Children attend from a wide catchment area. The play scheme currently supports a number of children with special needs and a number of children speak English as an additional language.

There are three staff employed by Barnardo's to work at the scheme. The manager holds an NVQ level 3 and first aid qualification and two staff hold early years qualifications. Parents and volunteers attend on regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health within the setting is fully supported by staff that have a sound knowledge of the play scheme's health and hygiene procedures. Children are independent in self-care skills, for example they put on their own aprons before sitting at the craft table. They learn good simple hygiene practices and follow the good role models shown by the staff, for example by washing and drying their hands after the craft activity and before eating. Children are encouraged to see to their own toileting needs, under the supervision of the staff, as they use the public toilets close by.

Children enjoy the free play and adult-initiated activities available in the spacious surroundings. They benefit from a number of outdoor areas to engage in physical play. They enjoy physical exercise and learn about movement and activity in the daily activities provided, for example the children play cricket and use the climbing frames and swings in the park. Children enjoy the activities provided and their concentration and interest is maintained throughout the session.

Children enjoy a social occasion at snack time. They learn social skills as staff encourage table manners as they have a drink and snack together in the club house. Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet and help themselves to easily accessible drinking water throughout the session. They sit together at the tables and choose for themselves from the variety of drinks, fresh fruit, scones and toasted snacks on offer.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and well-maintained environment. They confidently move around the spacious indoor club room and help themselves to a range of easily accessible, age appropriate resources and activities. Staff change and rotate resources each play scheme from a central store; this allows children to use different games and activities, therefore maintaining stimulation and interest. Children with special needs are safe and fully included because of the sensitive adult support and well-planned adaptations to the environment, resources and activities.

Children are generally kept safe and secure when playing inside. Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff use detailed risk assessments that reduce potential hazards. Staff check the environment is safe before the session starts. This means that children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The entrance door is a fire exit, so staff monitor and supervise this area as children and parents arrive. Children's attendance is recorded; however, volunteers, staff and visitors attendance is not noted.

Children begin to understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, when children ask to use the toilet, the staff member escorts them and explains clearly and simply why she needs to check it before use. The fire fighting equipment is in place and the evacuation procedure is clearly displayed; however it has not been practiced with the children. Children benefit from outdoor physical play and activities in the public park and play park close by; however, when taking the children to these areas the operational procedures for outings and the deployment of staff is not fully considered, therefore children's safety and security is compromised.

Children are protected by staff who have a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures and give priority to children's welfare. Staff undertake additional relevant training and policies and procedures are in line with current legislation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and contented. They settle well and enjoy their time at the play scheme. They are enthusiastic and self-assured in their play, helping themselves to the interesting and stimulating activities and resources available, which support their development across all areas of learning. Children are eager to learn and confident to try new experiences, for example they make 'furry' containers, cutting, sticking and designing a pattern, or creating a face on the front. They listen to instruction and enthusiastically join in board games, playing with a friend or in small groups, supported by an adult. Children develop self-esteem and respect for others. They become aware of their own needs and the needs of others. For example, when a younger child asks the adult how to make his container like another child's, the staff member encourages him to ask the older child, who happily and confidently explains to him what to do and helps the younger child to make his container in a similar way.

Children benefit from close and caring relationships with staff which increase children's sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self. Adult-child interactions are very supportive of communication skills and extend experiences. Children relate well to each other and socialise well, building up good relationships with staff and other children. They begin to distinguish between right and wrong and learn to take turns playing games and share resources. Older children learn patience as they help younger children. A flexible approach to planning and a good balance between adult and child-led activities allows children to make choices and decisions and acquire new skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children and parents are made welcome. Their individual needs are known and met by staff in discussion with their parents. Children's understanding of equality is promoted through activities that encourage equal play, for example older and younger children play together and support each other in craft activities and when playing games. Their awareness of diversity is stimulated as they explore their own and others' cultures and traditions during focussed activities. For example, planned activities include looking at Native Americans; making drums, head dresses and learning words and names. Children go on outings exploring the local community attractions and the environment, for example, the animal farm.

Children's behaviour is good and they respond well to the staff's effective strategies such as giving time to listen, praising achievements and providing individual support and comfort. Children enjoy mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. They develop self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and make choices and decisions. Children with special needs integrate well within the group. Equipment and resources are adapted to ensure all children are able to participate fully. Children respect and understand that some children need extra help and willingly support those who do.

Relationships with parents are good. Information is shared daily. Policies, procedures and documentation is displayed on the notice board, in an information leaflet and within regular newsletters. Staff make parents welcome and encourage them to take part in activities with their children. Parents stay and help, many become volunteers and access training through the organisation.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The organisation uses effective recruitment procedures and appropriately vets and checks staff have suitable qualifications. The induction programme and good teamwork make sure all staff work well together to promote children's health, enjoyment and achievement. The adult-to-child ratio supports children's care, learning and play. Staff and volunteers undertake additional relevant in-house training to update their knowledge and understanding of key issues to enable continuous improvement and development.

Children are cared for in a well-equipped environment. The premises are well organised. Indoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. Children feel at home and at ease within the environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning during child-initiated play and planned activities.

Most documentation, policies and procedures are in place, which enables the smooth running of the holiday scheme and promotes children's safety and welfare.

Information is shared with parents on a daily basis, through a parents' information booklet, regular newsletters and the displaying of policies and procedures. Children receive a good level of individual attention as the staff-to-child ratios facilitate this. Their individual needs are known and all children are included.

The good quality of the provision means that overall the holiday play scheme meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to improve children's access to fresh drinking water. The children are now able to access fresh drinking water at all times. The provider makes sure that a pump action flask with cups is available in the main hall for children to enable them to help themselves.

The provider agreed to review the operational plan to include a clear statement of what action was to be taken in the event a child becoming lost. Since the last inspection a statement has been added to the uncollected child and outings policy regarding lost children and the action to be followed by staff, therefore ensuring children's safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 good. 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):

- develop operational procedures for outings to the park and make sure staff deployment ensures children's safety and supervision at all times
- make sure registration arrangements show when staff, parents, volunteers and visitors are present
- make sure the fire evacuation procedure is practiced regularly with the children.

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