

Mowmacre Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	260279
Inspection date	07/04/2009
Inspector	Alison Edwards

Setting address	Bewcastle Grove, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE4 2JW
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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 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

Mowmacre Playground registered in 1994 is run by the Mowmacre Young Peoples Play and Development Association. It is based in a building in a purpose designed playground in the northern suburbs of Leicester, and serves the local community. It offers a range of services to children and young people under the age of 19 years, including the provision of weekday play activities between the hours of 10:00 and 13:00 hours during some school holidays. It is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register to care for a maximum of 40 school-aged children aged under eight years at any one time, all of whom may be within the early years age group. It is also registered on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register to provide for older children. There are currently 65 children aged under eight years on roll, including six within the early years age group. Children attending the holiday play activities have sole use of the building during hours of operation, and use the main hall, side room and cloakroom facilities on the ground floor of the building, with access to two additional mezzanine areas. They use the surrounding playground for outdoor play. Including the manager, there are currently 11 adults regularly working with children attending the holiday scheme. Of these, three hold recognised qualifications at Level 3 and one holds a qualification at Level 2. Other staff are currently undertaking relevant training at Levels 2 and 3, or are completing teacher training qualifications.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate. Some required arrangements to underpin young children's safety and health are not in place, so potentially compromising children's welfare. Staff lack sufficient knowledge of the learning and development requirements within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to enable them contribute effectively to children's progress across all areas of learning. Arrangements to work in partnership with parents and carers sometimes fail to ensure that all necessary details of children's specific health, care and dietary needs are readily available to ensure that children's individual needs can be safely met. Some systems are in place to evaluate the daily running of the provision and to plan for future developments, but these are not yet fully effective in ensuring that all aspects of the EYFS are appropriately met.

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:

- establish systems to ensure that children do not leave the premises unsupervised and are only released into

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- the care of authorised individuals (Safeguarding and welfare)
 - ensure there is a procedure to notify Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practicable in the event of any allegation of harm or abuse by anyone working on the premises (Safeguarding and welfare) 04/05/2009
 - ensure that information obtained from parents in advance of a child being admitted to the provision with regard to any allergies, special health or dietary requirements, and that written parental consent is requested to obtain any necessary emergency medical treatment (Safeguarding and welfare) 04/05/2009
 - establish an effective policy on administering medicines, including effective management systems to support individual children with medical needs (Safeguarding and welfare) 04/05/2009
 - ensure sufficient knowledge of the six areas of learning to support effective planning, provision and shared working to support children's progress towards all the early learning goals (Early learning goals) 04/05/2009
 - improve systems to ensure that children's needs are met by developing the use of evaluation and quality improvement processes to assess the provision against robust and clear criteria. (Organisation) 04/05/2009
- To improve the early years provision the registered person should:
- review the effectiveness of arrangements to provide children with healthy snacks
 - review the effectiveness of systems to assess the suitability of adults caring for children, with particular regard to consideration of medical suitability and the provision of references.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Current policies do not ensure that the requirements of the EYFS are met in order to underpin young children's welfare. Arrangements to ensure the security and safety of young children are inadequate because the setting operates an 'open access' policy enabling children to leave the premises unaccompanied. Procedures are not in place to identify the actions to be taken in the event of any allegation of abuse against a staff member, so potentially compromising arrangements to safeguard children from harm. However, staff are aware of what child abuse and neglect mean and of their responsibility to follow agreed local guidance in the event of any concerns about a child. Generally, sound procedures are in place to ascertain the suitability of adults working with children, although arrangements to consider references and medical suitability are not fully in line with best practice.

The setting sometimes fails to obtain necessary information from parents to ensure

that young children's health needs can be met safely, for example, regarding the management of allergies or serious injuries. However, it does provide basic written information to parents about how the playscheme operates, and makes policies and procedures available to them. The setting has some links with other local early years providers, but has not yet fully considered ways of shared working to fully promote children's learning and development in line with the principles and requirements of the EYFS.

Self-evaluation processes have not identified the current lapses in fulfilling the requirements of the EYFS in order to meet young children's needs. The setting has considered recommendations raised at its last inspection, although has not yet effectively established ways to offer healthy snacks. Staff do carry out informal daily reviews to identify any specific issues and to take account of children's ideas and comments. The setting participates in an on-going scheme to review its general organisational processes, and has systems in place to identify and work towards future developments, such as the installation of additional fixed play equipment.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Arrangements to maintain children's safety and security are insufficient because the premises are not secure, and systems do not ensure that young children only leave the setting with an authorised person. However, the premises do provide enough adequately maintained space for children to play and relax. Risk assessments are used to identify and address potential hazards to children relating to specific equipment or areas of the building. Staffing is organised so that adults who have been cleared as suitable to work with children supervise them in each area of the premises. Staff talk with children on an impromptu basis to help them understand how to behave appropriately and keep themselves and others safe.

Records sometimes lack enough information about individual children's specific needs, so potentially compromising staff's ability to manage these safely, for example, with regard to allergies. They sometimes do not show whether parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment has been given. The current policy of not administering any medication potentially compromises staff's ability to manage any life threatening condition in children's best interests. Consequently, arrangements to maintain children's health are insufficient. However, arrangements are in place to manage minor accidents, because first aid supplies are readily accessible, and at least one member of staff is present with current paediatric first aid training. Drinking water is freely accessible to help ensure that children have sufficient fluids. However, 'tuck shop' snacks, such as sweets and crisps, do not actively contribute to children's healthy lifestyle and diet.

The setting is not aware of the learning and development requirements of the EYFS. Consequently, staff lack familiarity with what children need to learn, and do not have arrangements in place to ensure that the playscheme supports children's progress towards the early learning goals by complementing children's experiences with other early years providers. However, children across the age range are usually busy and occupied in their play, and participate readily in a selection of

available activities which are broadly suited to their interests and stage of development. For example, young children enjoy a range of energetic activities helping them to develop their movement skills, such as adult-led athletics activities and the use of dance mats. They readily participate in various art and craft activities, such as making bead mats or plaster models. They enjoy simple reasoning games such as 'four in a row' and show high levels of interest and competence when using simple computer games and controlled-access internet sites.

Young children settle readily on arrival, and very quickly become involved in their play. The setting makes some use of posters and play equipment reflecting positive images of different cultures and lifestyles, so helping children to recognise and respect diversity. Children across the age range usually play well together, for example, as older children help younger ones to use pool cues safely, or as children of different ages share craft materials. Children show ready awareness of how to behave safely, for example, responding to a fire drill quickly and sensibly. They use equipment and resources appropriately, often showing sustained attention and interest in their activities. Consequently, they are establishing sound habits to support their future development and learning.

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?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	4
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	4
How well are children safeguarded?	4

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	4
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	4
How well are children helped to be healthy?	4
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	4
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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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:

Not Met (with actions)

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:

- establish arrangements to inform Ofsted of any allegation of serious harm or abuse to a child committed on the premises, or by any person looking after children on the premises (Matters affecting the welfare of children; also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register section of the report).

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

- take action as specified in the compulsory part of the Childcare Register section of the report (Matters affecting the welfare of children).

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