



Torbay Special Needs Playscheme and Saturday Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY305705
Inspection date	29 December 2005
Inspector	Janet Butlin
Setting Address	Torbay School, 170B Torquay Road, Paignton, Devon, TQ3 2NA
Telephone number	01803 402757
E-mail	
Registered person	Torbay Council
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?

Torbay Special Needs Play-Scheme and Saturday Club is managed by Torbay Children's Services Children with Disabilities Team and operates from the Torbay School. This is a school for children with special needs situated in Paignton, in Devon.

The provision is registered to care for up to 25 children aged from 5 years to under 8 years, and older children also attend. Overnight care is not provided. The group provides activities for children and young people aged from 5 to 17 years with learning and physical difficulties. There are currently 69 children enrolled, 6 of whom

are under 8 years. The group is open from 10.00 to 16.00 on Saturdays and on certain days during the school holidays.

Staff comprise two managers and three group leaders who have appropriate qualifications. They are supported by sessional staff and volunteers, many of whom are undertaking qualifying training. There is close working with relevant local agencies.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean environment where they are warm and their personal needs are met conscientiously. They are protected from infection by the good hygiene procedures that are followed, for example at changing times and before meals and children who are sick or infectious do not attend. Children receive good care if they become unwell or are injured. There is a designated member of staff with a first-aid qualification in attendance and appropriate procedures are in place for recording and sharing details of accidents and medication. Children are protected in emergencies as parents have given consent for staff to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children are well nourished during their time at the group as they are provided with healthy snacks and are encouraged to progress through their packed lunches in a healthy fashion. Meal-times are positive social occasions for the children as they share lunch with the staff.

Children enjoy the fresh air regularly as they play outside or go on walks or outings whenever the weather permits.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play and are cared for in a child-friendly environment, where space and resources are used well to provide a variety of worthwhile experiences. The rooms are spacious and light and this increases the children's enjoyment. Children also benefit from the staff's conscientious regard for maintaining a comfortable temperature in the setting. They use an extensive range of toys and resources which are clean and in good condition. These include craft materials which the children access and explore easily as they are very well supported by staff. Toys and materials are set out, ready for the children to enjoy as soon as they arrive.

Children are kept safe by the staff's rigorous attention to assessing and addressing any risks. The premises are very secure and access is well monitored. Visitors are promptly recorded and a well implemented registration system protects children by ensuring that it is possible to accurately tell who is on the premises. They are further protected by the way the setting regularly and thoughtfully practices emergency

evacuation procedures.

Children's safety is further supported by the staff's secure understanding of the child protection procedure.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy, confident and settle quickly to play. When they arrive they are greeted warmly by the caring staff who all know them very well and have planned activities to meet their needs. Children confidently communicate with staff, for example about their craft activity and their language is reinforced wherever appropriate through sensitive conversation. Children show interest in their activities and are keen to experiment and move on to new experiences. For example, having completed the construction of train track they move to actually ride in a pretend train made from a cardboard box. All children have the opportunity to make choices in their activities according to their individual needs and starting points. They benefit from the staff's thoughtful attention to recording observations. These observations are used very effectively to plan future activities for the children and to ensure they continue to be supported well. Interaction between staff and children is excellent. Children receive ongoing, consistent and enthusiastic communication, praise and encouragement from staff who are genuinely interested in promoting the children's enjoyment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are known and respected and all children who attend have specific needs which are well met. The very appropriate policy is thoroughly implemented at every session as the group fulfils its aims of supporting all children. Children benefit from the way the group works in close co-operation with various local agencies. Children behave very well according to their individual stages of development and needs. They are confident to seek help from staff when they require it, for example asking them to help negotiate sharing a popular toy. They also develop social awareness, for example at meal times, as staff encourage good manners. Children are encouraged to make a positive contribution to the experiences of others in the group and staff seek to ensure that the children receive much positive reinforcement and praise.

Children are cared for in accordance with their parents wishes and parents receive helpful information regarding their child's experiences and continuity of care. Children become familiar with the staff before they attend as home visits are made. Most regulatory documentation is available for parents to view.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There is a very secure recruitment system which ensures that children are cared for by staff who are suitable and equipped to provide such specialist care. Appropriate staff ratios are maintained and staff are appropriately qualified and supported in their professional development. This enhances further the care and experiences that children receive. The environment and the activities provided therein are extremely well organised. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

All regulatory documentation is in place and essential information is accessible in the setting, the complaints log is being developed and this will augment the displayed procedure. However, some policies are held in the providers main office. This means that staff would not be able to access them immediately when the office is closed and use them to support their practice.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted have received no concerns.

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.

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 documentation to ensure all policies are easily accessible, including the establishment of an accessible complaints log

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and*

concerns about inspectors' judgements which is available from Ofsted's website:
www.ofsted.gov.uk