

Alexandra After School Care Scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	116249
Inspection date	04/05/2009
Inspector	Kanwaljit Singh
Setting address	Alexandra Schools, Denbigh Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 4DU
Telephone number	07958463091
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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

Alexandra After School Care Scheme is managed by a voluntary management committee, made up of parents of children who attend Alexandra School and the headteacher. It opened in 1990 and operates from several rooms within Alexandra Infant and Nursery School in Hounslow, in the London Borough of Hounslow. It is open each weekday from 15:30 to 17:45 during term time. Children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

Alexandra After School Care Scheme is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of 30 children aged from four to under eight years may attend at any one time. There are currently 27 children in this age range on roll, and of these, 15 are in the early years age group. Children up to 11 years of age may also use the club. It is available for children who attend the Alexandra School. The nursery employs seven staff, of whom three, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the Care Scheme and staff provide a safe and welcoming environment. Good levels of supervision ensure that children have equal access to the activities provided for them. Leadership provides clear direction and clearly understands what needs to be improved. Consequently, there is a good capacity for continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- inform the parents about the complaint procedures so that they know how to contact the Care Scheme and Ofsted if required
- extend and rotate daily activities for children so that these can be varied to enhance interest and enjoyment

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The manager and her staff work collaboratively together and are self reflective. They are clearly committed to ensuring that all children in their care are well looked after and enjoy the wide range of choices on offer. Regular questionnaires are given to children and their parents. Their views are carefully noted and used to identify further areas for improvements. This demonstrates the setting's commitment to providing high quality care. When asked if they would like more information regarding the Care Scheme, most parents said 'no'. However, some parents indicated that they were not aware of the complaints procedures.

Children are well protected because there are a comprehensive range of policies and procedures to ensure they are well safeguarded. The manager maintains a Single Central Record of all staff working at the club, and there are detailed policies and procedures for vetting and recruitment. Registers of attendance are meticulously kept. These are monitored by staff, and parents sign the register before taking their children home.

Risk assessments are regularly carried out and there are good procedures for monitoring the health and safety of the children. Child protection procedures are robust and staff are fully trained. Three adults have appropriate first aid qualifications. Current safeguarding practices are well implemented creating a safe and secure environment.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make good progress in all areas of learning because the staff provide opportunities for them to choose activities independently. Activities are adapted well so that children in the EYFS are fully included. The range of activities includes building with Lego, designing photo frames and modelling using play dough. Children enjoy role play and can select from a good range of dressing up clothes appropriate for their age. However, children are offered the same activities from day to day with little variety in the resources they are given to make different games or artefacts

There is good quality equipment for sporting and other physical development, which is used effectively to extend physical development. Children enjoy using the climbing apparatus and the good range of small games equipment. Supervision is good and staff make sure that children in the early years age group have their own space away from the older ones. Children benefit from healthy snacks that they say they enjoy. This includes a good variety of fruit and drinks. This helps them to develop an early understanding of healthy lifestyles.

The main strength of the provision is that children of all ages get along well together and behave well. The staff create a safe and welcoming environment in which risks are minimised and children learn to take responsibility for themselves and for others. Staff make good use of the space available both indoors and outdoors to maximise children's 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?	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

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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