

# Simply Play @ St Alfege

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY317553
<b>Inspection date</b>	16/06/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Clementina Ogunsanwo
<b>Setting address</b>	St. Alfege & St. Peters C of E Primary School, Creek Road, London, SE10 9RB
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<b>Email</b>	
<b>Type of setting</b>	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

Simply Play @ St Alfege is one of two after school clubs run by MSJ Simply Play Limited. It opened in 2005 and operates from a single storey building in the grounds of St Alfege School, situated close to Greenwich town centre. The club is open each weekday from 15.30 to 18.00 during term time. All children share access to a secure outdoor area.

The club is registered on the Early Years and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of 24 children aged from four to under eight years may attend at any one time. Currently, there are 22 children on roll, eight of whom are in the early years age group. The club supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities and those who are learning English as an additional language. There is access for children with disabilities.

Three members of staff work with the children. One member of staff holds a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) at level 3. The other two members of staff are working towards appropriate childcare qualifications. The club liaises well with the primary school to share information that assists in the care and education of the children.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children play within a safe and comfortable environment. Staff supervise the children well throughout the session, ensuring their safety and well-being at all times. A range of enjoyable activities are planned which help to develop children's team working skills and the staff ensure that every child is included and involved. However, the range of activities provided does not fully cover all the six areas of learning as required for children within the Early Years Foundation Stage. Parents and carers are pleased with the care their children receive, as shown in one parent's comment, 'Children are happy and are not ready to leave when they are collected.' The after school club is satisfactorily resourced and has a good capacity to maintain further improvement.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- increase staff's awareness of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum to enable them to plan activities that fully address the needs of children
- implement systems that track the level of progress children make towards achievement of the Early Learning Goals

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

Leadership and management are satisfactory. Safeguarding procedures and risk assessments are carried out on a regular basis. Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues. There are established procedures for preventing unauthorised access to the premises and to ensure the safe collection of children. Self-evaluation is accurate and the manager has quickly identified staff training needs. Increasing staff's awareness of current childcare practice is however hampered by them having limited access to training opportunities. All children, including those learning English as an additional language, are included in scheduled activities.

The club is satisfactorily resourced and makes effective use of the accommodation and facilities. Children use the outdoor play facility to undertake physical activities such as active hockey games and skipping sessions. Staff's active involvement in these outdoor play sessions makes learning fun. However, the absence of a covered play area restricts children's access to outdoor play during variable weather. Parents receive informal discussions about their children's performance. They are provided with a good range of information about the club's activities and routines when their children join. Staff make good use of helpful background information from staff at the main school which contributes well to the planning for the care of the children. The club has effectively addressed the issues that were identified during the previous inspection by updating the child protection policy and ensuring that accident records are countersigned by parents. The club has a good capacity to improve and has a detailed action plan, with clear points for improving the quality of the provision.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

The club provides enjoyable activities for the children who have established positive relationships with the staff who care for them. As one child said, 'I like it here because we have extra playtime.' The staff are actively engaged with the children which helps to create a warm and relaxing atmosphere. An enjoyable range of activities is planned to enhance children's creative expression through art. They enthusiastically take part in these, for example, children make realistic hand sculptures of which they are very proud. However, not all the areas of learning for the Early Years Foundation Stage, such as developing children's knowledge and understanding of the world, are included. Staff do not regularly assess the rate of progress children make towards achievement of the Early Learning Goals. Children's knowledge of how to stay healthy is reinforced well when they are provided with a healthy choice of fruit, snacks and drinks. Physical development is good and children undertake energetic football games and bike races, making good use of the outdoor facilities. Healthy snacks are available for the children each day, from which they make their own choices. Children also make positive contributions by registering themselves; they record their arrival times and sign themselves in. Staff interact well with the children and actively involve them in the running of the club by positively responding to their suggestions for activities. Staff have high expectations of behaviour which are consistently implemented.

Consequently, behaviour is good. Children are confident and cooperate well with each other during activities and enjoy each other's company. They are well supervised at all times and enjoy a range of practical cooking activities, such as making pizza. The staff gives high priority to promoting the safety and well-being of the children. There are well established systems for recording pupils' arrival and departure times and this helps the staff to account for each child's movement and attendance. Children know the routines well and expectations for eating and tidying up afterwards are well established. Hygiene requirements are fully met. The club's toilets are clean and well maintained.

## 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

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	3
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?	1

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	3
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	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?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
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: Met

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