

Konstam Children's Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	100599
Inspection date	16/06/2009
Inspector	David Shepherd
Setting address	75 Chester Road, London, N19 5DH
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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).

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

Konstam Children's Centre is situated in Highgate, London. It operates from a two storey building and uses four group rooms and an extended day room. Additional facilities include a soft play room, office, toilets attached to each room, kitchen, staff room and separate front and back garden and hard play areas. Disabled access is via a side door. There is a lift to both floors adjacent to this entrance. The centre serves the local community and nearby primary schools with which it has close links. Konstam Children's Centre allows 69 children in the setting at any one time. There are 68 children on roll aged between birth and five years of whom all are of Early Years Foundation Stage age. Forty-eight of these children receive nursery education funding. Nine children on average aged three to eight years attend the wrap-around after-school care and six attend the holiday play scheme. Children usually attend full time; 14 children have additional education needs and 25 speak English as an additional language. The children's centre is open five days a week for 49 weeks of the year. Opening times are from 08.00 until 18.00, with a core day from 09.00 until 15.00. Nursery age children attend term time only with wrap-around care provided through the early day and after school service. A holiday play scheme takes place during all school holidays from 08.00 until 18.00. The centre is closed for the last two weeks of August. There are 21 permanent members of staff who are appropriately qualified. There are five ancillary staff and an administrator. The centre is on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding. Konstam Children's Centre is outstanding in meeting children's individual welfare and learning development needs. Relationships between staff and children of all ages are excellent and children respond willingly to what they are asked to do. A wide variety of interesting indoor and outdoor activities are provided for the children, including the babies, that reflects all aspects of Early Years Foundation Stage provision. Links with parents are excellent. The manager, deputy manager and staff continually review their practice and have an excellent capacity to improve provision further.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- provide a sharper focus in weekly planning on what children are to learn

The leadership and management of the early years provision

With the help of the local authority, the manager and staff have developed useful policies and established procedures that ensure the safe and efficient management

of Early Years Foundation Stage provision. However, some of these policies are too wordy to be easily understood by parents. Children are supervised by well qualified staff. Two staff are qualified teachers, 19 hold level 3 qualifications and two have a level 2. One member of staff has a degree in childcare. The deputy manager is a qualified social worker. All staff attend training to improve provision further. This includes safeguarding, health and safety and first aid. All staff have been trained in paediatric first aid and all are Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checked.

Staff teams for the nursery age children, toddlers and babies meet each week to review their provision and plan the next steps. However, planning for the following week is too general and not specific enough to identify what it is the children are to learn. The whole staff meet fortnightly to discuss wider issues of provision. The centre has been awarded a 'Celebrating Quality' certificate by Camden in recognition of the high quality of its provision. Provision for children with additional educational needs is outstanding. The manager and staff have not made use of the national guidance on self-evaluation. In spite of this though, the overall quality of self-reflection indicates that the capacity to make improvements is outstanding.

Staff are deployed very effectively. A key worker system is in place for all children. Key workers know their children very well and assess and record thoroughly the progress they are making under the six areas of learning. Key workers compile a useful portfolio of achievements children have reached in each area of provision. Portfolios include photographs, samples of children's work and observations by staff with next steps in learning identified. These are then given to parents when children leave as a keepsake of their children's time in the centre. In addition, staff keep records of children's progress using the local authority's Foundation Stage Profile and these are given to the reception teachers of the schools to which children transfer. All this is excellent practice.

All children are included in activities and are encouraged to do so by staff who keep an eye on what each child is doing. The needs of all children, including those with additional educational needs, are met very well.

Links with parents are excellent. Parents have access to all policies and procedures in a comprehensive file. They also have access to staff planning in all six areas of learning. Parents also contribute to planning by letting their children bring in items of interest that staff discuss at appropriate times during sessions. A timetable of activities that take place each day is also available to parents. Easy to read newsletters are sent out termly informing parents about events at the centre. The admission form includes all the information required including parental permission for seeking medical treatment.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Staff look after the welfare needs of children excellently. Staff ensure that the children are safe. The premises are very secure. The accommodation, furniture, equipment and toys are suitable and in good condition. Reflective surfaces, rather than glass mirrors, are provided around the centre so that the children can look at themselves in safety. Risk assessments are carried out for activities that take place

in the centre and for off-site visits. Children are closely supervised at all times. Sun cream is applied before children go outside to play in the sunshine. However, formal daily risk assessments do not take place to check on any damage to equipment, toys and furniture that may have occurred that day.

Children eat healthily in the centre. The lunch menu includes options such as fish in tomato sauce, vegetable bolognaise, vegetables, yoghurt and fruit. Afternoon snacks include options like sandwiches, cheese and fruit. Cold water is available for children at any time. Good emphasis is placed on children washing their hands after going to the toilet and before having their lunch. Children eat their healthy snacks sensibly.

Children enjoy playing with toys, equipment and materials. They behave well and respond eagerly when asked to carry out activities. During the inspection, nursery children were busily engaged in creative activities using scissors for cutting out shapes which helped to develop their physical and creative skills. They had fun dressing up and acting their own imaginary roles. Some played in the home corner tidying up and ironing. Groups of children were engrossed with a member of staff matching shapes and pictures during a game. The under-threes enjoyed their sleep before getting ready to play at dressing up and ironing or playing outside with ride on toys or climbing up steps and falling on soft mats. Nursery children played outside for an extended period of time because of the good weather. They were eager to play in the play house, climb up a rope frame, balance on a beam, play in sand and rake over the soil. The play area was a buzz of happy children enjoying what was being provided for them.

Children behave well. They make a good contribution. For example, some help to tidy up after playing with toys but others do not. They walk around the rooms sensibly and consider other children and adults when carrying out their activities. They play well together, for instance, in the outside area, during role play or when cutting and sticking. All this helps to keep them safe and free from unnecessary accidents. It makes them good early learners and helps them for the next stage in their schooling.

The balance and range of inside and outside activities are outstanding. They reflect the six areas of provision for children of Early Years Foundation Stage age. Outside activities take place each session. Children play outside when they wish to do so. Staff take advantage of this and develop their skills and thinking during these activities. This is particularly impressive. Children have good opportunities to choose their own activities as well as being directed by staff at times to carry out tasks together, for instance, listen to a story or have a snack. Provision is varied and this keeps the children interested and involved in what is on offer. It is also tailored to meet individual needs.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
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?	1

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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