



Byron Childcare Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY288547
Inspection date	19 October 2005
Inspector	Rebecca Elizabeth Khabbazi
Setting Address	Byron Primary School, St. Davids, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 2XE
Telephone number	0208 763 2756
E-mail	
Registered person	Croydon Play Plus
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Byron Childcare Centre is an out of school setting run by Croydon Play Plus. It was first registered in 1994 and re-registered in 2005 due to now having charity status. The centre operates from a purpose built building within the grounds of Byron Primary School in Coulsdon, Surrey. The accommodation comprises of three playrooms, kitchen, cloakroom and office facilities. The centre also has use of outdoor play space. It provides a service to a number of schools in the local area.

The centre is registered to care for up to 70 children at any one time and there are currently 34 children aged 3-years to 8-years-old on roll. In addition to this, children

aged between 8-years and 11-years-old also attend. The centre is open from Monday to Friday between 15.00 and 18.00 during term-time, and from 08.00 until 18.00 throughout holiday periods. It operates all year round except for two weeks closure at Christmas.

There are five members of staff who work with the children, including the manager. Two members of staff have relevant play work qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health within the setting is supported appropriately by staff who make sure they are familiar with children's needs and can respond to any minor accidents or injuries. For instance, all staff have been on first aid training and information about any dietary or health needs is clearly recorded and shared with staff. Children have food and drinks regularly, which ensures they are not hungry or thirsty. However, their understanding of value of good nutrition is not developed because they are not offered healthy options such as fruit at snack time.

Children enjoy taking part in games and free-play in the playground. They are encouraged to spend some time each day engaged in physical activity and enthusiastically join in with games with balls, bats and skipping ropes. This contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment where they are confident and relaxed. They settle quickly when they arrive, choosing activities independently from a good variety of safe and well organised resources that are maintained in good condition.

Children's risk of accidental injury is reduced because assessments are made of potential hazards and risks around the building and outside areas, and most of the time staff are deployed so that children are appropriately supervised in all areas. Children begin to learn to keep themselves safe when they take part in regular fire practices or staff remind them how to use the equipment carefully.

There are clear written procedures for staff to follow if a child is lost during an outing. Staff are also aware of what they should do if it is found that a child is missing while at the centre, but these procedures are not written down to ensure staff follow them consistently. This means it may take staff longer to respond appropriately if this situation should arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic and self-assured in the setting. They enjoy spending time with their friends at the end of the school day and are able to relax or be active according to their needs and interests.

Children take part in a good variety of activities. They are able to freely choose what they would like to do on a day by day basis, as well contributing to plans for future topics, events and outings. For instance, they enjoy helping to make a shopping list for the Halloween party and being given the opportunity to type it up on the office computer. Children take part in art and craft activities eagerly, showing pride in their efforts and achievements. They have positive relationships with staff, who join in with games and activities. This adds to the overall enjoyment of the children taking part.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children show high levels of independence as they make choices and decisions, select their own resources and put things away when they have finished with them. They enjoy good relationships with others within the setting and generally behave well. They have good opportunities to play a role in the running of the centre, for instance through the 'Children's Committee'. There are fewer chances for children to develop a positive view of the wider community, for instance through activities that help them learn about different cultures and beliefs.

Children benefit from friendly relationships between staff and their parents. They are made welcome in the centre and provided with clear information about the provision.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Effective recruitment procedures ensure that children are cared for by staff who have been appropriately vetted. Staff are experienced, and there are plans in place to ensure enough staff have relevant qualifications. Once all children arrive at the centre, staff are generally deployed effectively to ensure children are supervised appropriately, but there are not always enough staff ready to receive children arriving at the centre over the school pick-up period. This means children may not get all the adult support they need at these times.

The centre has a familiar routine that ensures children remain occupied and involved and have time to rest, play and eat. Appropriate policies and procedures are in place that keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare although some, such as the lost child policy, lack some of the necessary detail. Taken overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the setting was re-registered in September 2004.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- update the lost child policy to include clear written procedures to be followed if it is discovered a child is missing at the Centre
- review the arrangements for staff cover at school pick-up times to ensure children arriving at the Centre have sufficient adult support

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