



Highgate Family Support Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 257169

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Inspector Anne Felicity Taylor

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Registered person Highgate Family Support Centre

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?

Highgate Family Support Centre opened in 1991 and operates from the Baptist Church building in the Highgate area of Birmingham. The after school club uses four rooms, including a large hall, in the single storey building. A maximum of 40 children may attend the setting at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 15:15 to 18:00 in term time only. Children have access to the outdoor area.

There are currently 34 children aged from 4 to 11 years on roll. Children are picked up from several local and city centre schools and come from a wide catchment area. The club currently supports a number of children with special educational needs, and

children who speak English as an additional language.

The after school club employs 10 staff. Of these, 8 staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. Staff are offered on-going training opportunities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health within the setting is supported successfully as staff encourage children in effective personal hygiene routines, for example, hand washing after using the toilet and before eating. They are cared for well should they have an accident or become ill because all staff are first aid trained and contact details for each child are in place. Children's well-being is monitored closely by staff and thorough procedures are in place for the administration of medication, ensuring parents are fully informed about their child. Children develop independence skills well, getting ready for tea.

Children understand the importance of keeping themselves healthy with plenty of drinks and a healthy diet, for example, water is available at all times. They enjoy completing a collage about healthy eating which is displayed in one of the play areas. Children's dietary needs are always met as procedures ensure that all staff are clear about a child's individual needs. Staff have completed food hygiene training and ensure that food is stored safely, for example, monitoring and recording refrigeration temperatures.

Children benefit from a wide variety of physical play, for example, hockey and rounders games in the large hall. They enjoy visits to the local park for ball and running games and younger children use the enclosed play area daily, weather permitting.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and confident in the club environment where there is plenty of space in the well-maintained building. Children benefit from the policies and procedures in place to ensure their safety, for example, arrival and departure procedures, registration and the security of the building. Risk assessments for all areas and activities are not in place, therefore the staff team may not have considered fully the risk to the children of an accident or incident at the club or when travelling to the club.

Children enjoy the wide range of appropriate play equipment which is well-maintained and cleaned regularly. Children are comfortable requesting specific items and activities, organising their own play with friends. They have easy access to a lot of equipment. Staff are deployed well, ensuring children are supervised in all areas at all times.

Children have been involved in developing the club rules and consequently develop an awareness of staying safe, for example not running indoors in order to avoid collisions and accidents. They are given regular opportunities to discuss and practise emergency evacuation; fire drills are not always recorded and therefore there is no written evidence available for the fire officer. Fire safety equipment is checked regularly. Children generally stay safe when they are collected from school as appropriate procedures are in place, for example, accurate registers for each school. Children's knowledge of road safety is reinforced as they are escorted to and from school. Older children have opportunities for small group discussion about personal safety, developing their understanding effectively.

Children's welfare is generally safeguarded as senior staff have a sound understanding of child protection policies and procedures and are able to recognise abuse and neglect. Clear procedures are not in place should professional abuse be suspected. All staff complete child protection training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and happy in the club's welcoming environment. They respond well as they are greeted personally by staff and their friends. They settle quickly to the wide variety of activities provided. Children build strong relationships with their peers and with staff, enabling them take part in organised or supervised activities or to plan and organise their own play and have lots of fun.

Children enjoy discussing the plans for the session and develop confidence as they request specific activities, for example story, reading. There is a wide range of resources which spark the children's interest and keep them busy, for example imaginative domestic play and building with technical Lego. All the children benefit from active physical play indoors and outdoors. They are able to take full advantage of local open spaces for walks and organised games and younger children enjoy the enclosed area with fixed equipment. Many children enjoy completing art and craft activities, discussing design and colour confidently with staff, as they paint their masks. Older children develop a strong understanding and appreciation of different cultural roots as they discuss ancient Egypt, the people of the Caribbean Islands and rapping. Staff respond well as the older children widen their discussions, talking about levels of violence and gangs. Relationships between the children are strong as they chat and play together, with staff providing unobtrusive supervision.

Children are offered opportunities to increase their learning and skills as they complete homework, read and use the computer. They are offered appropriate interesting activities because staff take responsibility for planning, communicate well and respond flexibly to the requests of the children, effectively ensuring the children's well-being and enjoyment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing respectful relationships with staff and each other because the staff are very good role models and encourage good manners and consideration. Children's confidence and self-esteem increases in the busy environment, as they select activities and talk to staff, voicing their opinions and choices. Children are proud of their art work and look forward to showing it to their parents. They appreciate the praise offered when they respond to requests from staff and help each other, for example, clearing up after tea.

Children behave very well within the boundaries set by staff and the club rules they have developed themselves. They are valued as individuals and the policies and procedures in place ensure that all children are included in all activities and all their needs are met, for example special educational needs and dietary requirements. They are developing a good understanding of the needs of others as they are praised for sharing and show concern for a friend who is upset.

Partnership with parents is good. Relationships are strong and very friendly and parents appreciate the flexible service offered by the club. They like the opportunities their children are offered to discuss different aspects of their communities and the time to complete homework and increase reading skills. Parents discuss all aspects of the care offered with staff and the daily events and their child's achievements. Good information is provided on the parent's notice board including activity plans, policies, weekly menus and community news.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment because the registered person uses appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures. Children are supported well in their play and recreation because the ratio of staff to children is very good. Staff communicate effectively amongst themselves and with parents, ensuring that the promotion of the children's health, safety, learning and enjoyment is a priority.

Children benefit from the diverse qualifications and skills of the staff team, enjoying opportunities for conversations, organised activities and appropriate support when planning their own activities. Staff complete short courses and add to their existing qualifications, for example, dance and expression, first aid and play work. They are dedicated to the well-being of the children and work well as a team during the daily routines and activities. The flexible planning and organisation ensures that the children have their individual needs and aspirations met.

All staff and parents have easy access to all policies and procedures which generally work in practice ensuring children's safety, enjoyment and achievements. Parents are asked to provide all the relevant information to ensure the service meets their needs, for example, days required for picking up from school. The club meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to develop a procedure to be followed in the case of a lost child and to ensure that the regulator's telephone number was on the complaints procedure. The out of school club now has all the required policies and procedures in place ensuring children are well cared for and parents are well informed.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- ensure all fire drills are recorded
- complete risks assessments and put in place a procedure to review them regularly
- review the child protection policy to include procedures in the case of professional abuse.

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