

# Thames Valley Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY260492
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 August 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Margaret Moffat
<b>Setting Address</b>	Bath Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 0PR
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<b>Registered person</b>	Thames Valley Adventure Playground Association
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day 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](http://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?

Thames Valley Adventure Playground opened in 1982 and registered in 1995 as some care is provided to unaccompanied children. It operates from two ground floor, wooden, purpose built buildings. All children share access to a fully enclosed, purpose built outdoor play area with a garden. The group is open Tuesday to Thursday from 10.00 until 15.30 during school holidays and every Saturday from 10.00 until 15.30.

There are currently 6 children aged from 3 to under 8 years on roll. Children over 8 years also attend the provision. The group is a special needs play ground and indoor facility used by individuals, families, schools, day care services and play schemes. It serves the local community and surrounding areas. It is a registered charity, run by a committee of volunteers.

The group employs 7 full time members of staff and 5 of these hold appropriate early years qualifications. There are also 5 part-time members of staff and a number of volunteers who work on a regular basis.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment is clean and well maintained. Children receive good support to help them develop independent personal hygiene routines. Children stay healthy because staff follow good health guidelines and procedures. All relevant documentation and consents are in place. Parents give prior written consent to administer medication and the majority of staff hold first aid certificates. This ensures children's health and welfare are maintained effectively by the staff.

There is a good range of physical activities for children to participate in which contributes to a healthy lifestyle. There are many opportunities both indoor and outdoors for children to access a range of toys, equipment and resources to enhance their physical skills.

Staff gather relevant information regarding diet and medical history. Children have opportunities to rest and sleep as required. This ensures children's individual needs are met.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very secure indoor and outdoor environment in which they feel at home. Precautions are in place to minimise risks in all areas and comprehensive risk assessments are completed daily. Staff organise the whole environment effectively, allowing children space to move around safely, freely and independently. There is an excellent range of toys and equipment that are stimulating and appropriate to their age and development. These include a range of specialised toys and resources designed to support children with varying special needs. The premises are very secure and there are good procedures in place to prevent unwanted visitors gaining access and to ensure children are unable to leave the premises without a suitable adult.

Staff have a good knowledge of child protection issues. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a warm, welcoming and caring environment where staff create a stimulating atmosphere including a sensory room, music room, quiet room and soft play area. Displays of photographs show children enjoying and participating in a wide range of activities. These include dressing up, art and craft and playing in the outside area. A stimulating and interesting range of activities is available to nurture children's interest and encourage them to explore and investigate. Staff ensure that activities provided are suitable and meet the specific needs of the children. Staff have a good understanding of how children develop and learn, and use these skills to enable children to progress at their own pace.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Staff have a positive attitude towards diversity and ensure children are given opportunities to be independent and participate in activities provided. This ensures children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential within the setting. Planned activities ensure children learn about their environment and other cultures, for example gardening and dressing up. The environment is managed to ensure children with physical disabilities can participate in outside activities for example wheelchair round-a-bout, swing and tree house.

There are good systems in place to support children attending and their families. Close liaison with parents and outside agencies ensure children's welfare and individual care needs are met. Behaviour management strategies are appropriate, they take into account each child's specific needs and understanding.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The environment is suitable and space is used effectively to maximise play and development opportunities for children. Parents and carers accompany the majority of children under 8 years who attend the provision. At the time of inspection, there were no children under 8 years attending unaccompanied. All legally required documentation, which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, however some policies are not fully up to date and not readily available for parents and carers. Children benefit from qualified and experienced staff who are very caring. Staff work well as a team and show an awareness and commitment to the children who attend. The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not Applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

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.

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 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):

- ensure policies and procedures contain up to date information and are readily available to parents and carers.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)