



YMCA Sutton Coldfield Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	229052
Inspection date	26 July 2005
Inspector	Janet Ashcroft
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Registered person	Sutton Coldfield YMCA
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?

YMCA Sutton Coldfield Playscheme opened in 1999. It operates from several rooms on the ground floor of the YMCA Hostel and from the ground floor of an adjacent building. Residents are not on site during playscheme operation times. The playscheme serves the local and surrounding areas.

There are currently 98 children on roll who attend for a variety of sessions. The setting opens during school holidays by arrangement and sessions are from 08:15 to 17:40.

There are five full time staff working with the children and a number of students and volunteers. All the full time staff have Level 3 qualifications in play work or early years; two volunteers have Level 2 qualifications and the others are working towards this. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and has recently completed an 'Aiming High' award.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning about good hygiene practices and are encouraged and supported in developing self-help skills with regard to personal hygiene. They benefit from a variety of practical food activities, which encourage their interest in a healthy diet.

Children's health is safeguarded through the setting's policies, procedures and records. These are generally satisfactory; however, medication records are not kept for the required period and parents do not always countersign accident records.

Children benefit from regular opportunities to exercise and practise gross motor skills, with effective use made of the outdoor area for physical activities and team games.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to move freely and independently around the setting, which is clean and generally safe. Staff have an awareness of risks to children's safety and have taken steps to identify and remove hazards in the setting; however, the present method of toilet access is placing children at risk.

Children are able to freely access an extensive and balanced range of toys and equipment; these are clean, appropriately maintained and safely stored.

Children's protection from abuse and neglect is promoted through the setting's comprehensive training programme and the staff's detailed knowledge of signs, symptoms and reporting procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are able to engage in a broad and balanced range of activities, which helps them make progress in all areas of development. They are learning to make choices and are encouraged to contribute to the selection of new resources. Their self-reliance is fostered as they are able to access most toys and equipment freely and independently.

Children benefit from frequent play and learning opportunities outside the setting, for example museum and cinema trips. They are given opportunities to develop interest in the natural world during outings to nature reserves and zoo parks.

The children are able to work cooperatively and purposefully together. For example, groups of mixed age children devised and baked pizzas, developing their skills of negotiation and compromise.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for as individuals, with their different needs acknowledged and valued. They are able to access a modest range of resources and activities to promote a positive view of the wider world and to increase their understanding of others.

Children play harmoniously together. Their behaviour is good and they are actively involved in negotiating the goals and boundaries for the setting. Their self-esteem is fostered as they are praised often for effort; their achievements are frequently recognised and celebrated.

There is a strong partnership with parents and the children benefit from the consistency of care which this promotes. Parents are very warmly welcomed into the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare is generally safeguarded through the setting's policies, procedures and records. However, the attendance register lacks consistent recording of staff arrival and departure times. Furthermore, there is not a clearly defined policy in the event of a child being lost.

Children benefit from the well planned use of space, which is creatively organised to accommodate a wide variety of activities and experiences. Their sense of belonging is enhanced by displays of photographs and creative work and their sense of security is promoted through the well organised daily routine. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the setting was asked to conduct a risk assessment on the premises. There is now a thorough risk assessment policy in place; however, this does not always work in practice, for example the risk to children when accessing the toilets has not been identified and as a result there is a risk to the children's safety.

Recommendations were made with regard to revision of accident records, fire

procedures, children's record cards and the child protection policy. All these policies, procedures and records have been revised and now safeguard the children's welfare and safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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 that all parents sign the medication and accident records and that a copy is kept
- ensure that procedures are put in place to allow the children safe access to the toilets
- provide a clearly defined procedure to be followed in the event of a child becoming lost
- ensure that staff attendance records detail arrival and departure times.

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