



White Lodge Playscheme (Walton Leigh)

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY304220 |
| Inspection date | 11 April 2006 |
| Inspector | Patricia Jane Daniels |
| Setting Address | Walton Leigh School, Queens Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 5AB |
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| Registered person | White Lodge 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

White Lodge play scheme (Walton Leigh) opened in 2005. It operates from several rooms within the premises of Walton Leigh School in Walton-on-Thames. Facilities available include the main hall, dining area, a staff room, toilets, a playing field and playground equipment.

The play scheme caters exclusively for children with disabilities living within the Borough of Elmbridge and surrounding area. Access to the play scheme is through referral or direct contact with the White Lodge centre.

The play scheme is registered for 25 children aged from 4 years to under 8 years. A varied number of children attend at any time. The provision is open 5 days a week during school holidays from 10:00 - 16:00.

The company employs a varied number of staff to meet the required child to staff ratios. Staff have undertaken in house inductions, at least one qualified member of staff is present for a minimum of half the session. Other staff are working towards recognised childcare qualifications. Some staff hold a current first aid certificate and training to administer invasive medication.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff receive specialist training to administer any invasive medicines. This ensures children receive the correct dose in an appropriate manner. Some staff have training to administer first aid to children in case of an accident. Parents give prior written consent to administer medication and staff follow the instructions given by the pharmacist, which ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. There are suitable arrangements for attending to the personal needs of the more disabled children, which ensures that they are treated with dignity and respect.

Children are not always fully protected from potential cross infection through the daily routines. There is no implemented procedure for staff and children to wash their hands before mealtimes and tables are not always wiped before food is placed on them.

The play scheme provides a healthy snack that includes fruit and parents provide a packed lunch box. Staff assist children who need help with eating. Children are given regular drinks throughout the day and are encouraged to drink more during warmer weather or after physical activity, so that they do not become thirsty.

Children's physical development is promoted through regular play outdoors, when they can enjoy the benefits of exercise. The hall is also used to offer physical activities such as unihoc. The more disabled children use supportive seating and staff give them opportunities to lie on the floor and move more freely during the day, which promotes their physical wellbeing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious environment and can choose between several rooms with different themes such as the quiet room, art and craft room or the large hall for more physical activities. This helps the children find a place where they feel comfortable. Toys and resources are carefully selected to ensure they are suitable for the children.

Children are closely supervised at all times, to ensure their safety. The premises are very secure and there are good procedures in place to prevent unwanted visitors gaining access. There are regular risk assessments both indoors and out that enable staff to identify and address and potential hazards. However, staff are not all familiar with the fire evacuation procedure and a fire drill has not been carried out. This means children are not protected by staff who know the procedure well in the event of a fire.

Staff have training in child protection and know the procedures to follow if they have concerns. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Staff plan a range of activities for children but are entirely flexible and respond to children's preferences and choices. Staff interpret and respond to the gestures and sounds used for communication by the more severely disabled children. For example, a member of staff moves a toy towards or away from a child in response to her actions. This encourages the child to communicate and enables her to make her choices. Some children become engrossed in their chosen activities. Staff offer alternatives to these children but allow them to continue playing as they choose.

Sometimes children become uninterested and staff notice this and offer alternatives to keep the children stimulated. Children are offered a balance of activities and have opportunities for more active play outdoors and quieter play inside. The scheme does not undertake outings but visitors sometimes call at the group. On the day of inspection, a visitor arrives with some animals, which gives the children opportunities for different experiences within their environment.

Staff are warm and enthusiastic towards the children, helping them to feel settled and confident and to enjoy themselves. They join in with the children's play, supporting and extending the play and becoming the children's playmates. A child requests a "Batman belt". A member of staff makes this for him from the craft materials and he is delighted with the result. The children benefit from positive experiences with their helpers.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and staff acknowledge their preferences. Children have access to all the activities. They participate at their own level and have assistance from the staff, where needed. Parents provide detailed written information about their children and staff read this to gain insight into the children's personal needs. Staff are good role models, helping children learn the importance of showing respect for all. They praise and encourage the children to promote their self-esteem. Staff use Makaton and PECs to help children's communication, when appropriate.

Staff manage children's behaviour in a positive way and are trained to use appropriate management strategies. The staff are consistent and appropriate in their responses to children's behaviour. This helps the children to become aware of the routines and boundaries of the group.

Staff gather all relevant information before children are placed in the play scheme. This ensures that individual care routines are in place immediately. Informal discussions with parents at drop off time ensure continuity of care for the children. Staff give daily feedback to parents about their child's day in a communication book. A secure collection procedure is in place, parents record and sign to indicate when someone else will collect their child. These actions foster a positive relationship with parents and promote the children's wellbeing.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that children are well protected. Staff receive induction training from White Lodge to include child protection, behaviour management and health and safety. Sometimes the staff present do not hold the appropriate minimum qualifications and a system has been developed by the coordinator to ensure this does not occur in the future. The play scheme has breached regulations in relation to informing Ofsted of relevant changes of staff and a warning letter has been issued. However, the play scheme is compliant and proactive in relation to rectifying this situation immediately to ensure that this breach does not occur again.

A written range of policies and procedures is in place but are not easily accessed by parents. The scheme does not provide a brochure for parents containing basic information about the play scheme.

Documentation relating to the safety, welfare and health of the children is in place, contributing to the overall care of the children. The play scheme meets the needs of the 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 registration.

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):

- implement good hygiene procedures with particular reference to hand washing routines for staff and children
- ensure all staff are fully aware of and have practised the fire evacuation procedure
- provide parents with written information about the play scheme which includes an outline of the policies and procedures, implement a system to ensure that Ofsted is informed of relevant changes and provide an action plan to show how required staff qualifications will be met.

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