



# Calder Kids Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY300422
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 January 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Margaret Patricia Mellor
<b>Setting Address</b>	Harthill Road, Calderstones, Liverpool, Merseyside, L18 3HU
<b>Telephone number</b>	0151 724 2240
<b>E-mail</b>	calderkids@tiscali.co.uk
<b>Registered person</b>	Calder Kids Adventure Playground
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](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?

Calder kids Adventure Playground were registered in 2005. The setting has been operating for twenty five years. It is a specialist project providing Out of School, Play Service and Outreach provision for children and young people with disabilities. They are a charitable organisation run by a voluntary management committee. The premises are purpose built and situated near to Calderstones Park in the south end of Liverpool. Children use a large hall, computer, soft play, sensory and art rooms for their care and play experiences. There is a secure, fully enclosed adventure playground and herb garden for children's outdoor activities. The setting serves families whose children either live in or are being educated in Liverpool.

A maximum of 70 children aged from 5 years to under 8 years may attend at any one time. They provide an all year round service with the exception of bank holidays and two weeks at Christmas. Out of Schools run Monday to Friday from 15.00 to 18.00 , Saturdays 09.00 to 17.00 and holiday play schemes Monday to Saturday from 08.00 to 18.00. The Play Service runs term time Tuesday to Friday from 15.30 to 19.45, Saturday 10.00 to 15.00 hours and holidays from 10.00 to 15.00. The outreach provision is attended by children who are supported by their individual carers at agreed times on Monday to Saturday. There are 116 children on roll aged from 5 to 19 years who attend various sessions during the week.

The setting employs 24 staff and 14 have a relevant qualification in play work. There is an administrator and bank of named volunteers who support the activities. They receive support from Merseyside Play Action Council, Splash and Sure Start Services of Liverpool Children's Services.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's welfare is generally well protected as the staff act in children's best interests when they are ill and store medication in an accessible place out of children's reach. There are seven staff who have a first aid certificate and a fully stocked first aid box is kept in the medical room, so they can quickly respond to any minor injuries. Staff follow appropriate hygiene procedures, as they clean the premises on a daily basis and consistently wear disposable gloves and aprons when changing children. This helps prevent the spread of cross infection promoting children's well-being. Children are developing awareness of some simple personal hygiene as staff gently remind them to wash their hands before eating or after going to the toilet.

The children bring their own snack or packed lunch, which ensures that parents' wishes are respected and children remain healthy. They develop their awareness of healthy eating through planned activities such as a collage display they make from pictures cut out of magazines and fruit tasting sessions. Drinking water is available for children that enables them to independently help themselves when thirsty or after exercise.

Children enjoy a range of activities planned by staff, contributing to their growth and development. They are developing their climbing and balancing skills confidently on the challenging structures in the adventure playground. They love to dance to music, play musical statues and wheelchair basketball that builds on children's co-ordination and spatial awareness skills. Staff encourage co-operation and participation through the effective use of group games and resources, in particular the parachute. Children relish tactile and manipulative activities, such as art or crafts. This helps promote children's fine motor skills.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in premises that are old but adequately maintained and suitable to meet their needs. The outdoor play area provides a variety of challenge to children in a safe enclosed area. Children can develop their independence as they move freely and safely in the setting because the staff carry out a daily written risk assessment of the premises before children arrive. This helps minimise the risk of children accidentally injuring themselves. All safety equipment is in place and appropriate procedures for checking fire equipment and portable appliances that further help protect children from potential harm. There are effective and well thought out procedures for keeping children safe and well, whilst enjoying outings and specific activities, such as swimming.

The children learn about personal safety as they regularly practice what to do in the event of a fire and through the staffs gentle reminders to pick up the toys so they do not trip. Their protection is further assured because staff have a sound understanding of child protection issues and the steps to take to safeguard children's welfare. Staff's willingness to note concerns and discuss these with parents ensures that the wellbeing of children in their care is a priority.

Children enjoy freedom of movement in the setting because there is sufficient space, which the staff organise well. They have free access to a broad range of quality toys and equipment that are suitable for their age while presenting them with appropriate challenges. The toys, games and resources are maintained well because the staff follow appropriate health and safety procedures, so children remain safe. All children have much fun as they play with the toys and relax in comfort with their friends because the tables, chairs and comfy cushions are suitable for their differing ages.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the setting because staff provide a friendly welcoming environment. All children eagerly enter the premises where they are given a warm welcome by the staff who have set out a variety of toys and activities. They are happy, confident and respond warmly to the staff and their close relationships with adults helps promote children's sense of belonging. They eagerly chose between self initiated play or engage in activities with staff. Children are polite and considerate to one another as they share the toys and take turns at the darts board. They gain independence and grow in confidence as they pursue interests that appeal to them. Children are listened to by staff; as a result they confidently make their needs known to the adults.

The children have a good time in the setting as the staff provide a wide range of interesting activities that help stimulate and enhance children's skills through play. Children are motivated and eagerly participate in a wide range of creative activities such as reading, singing, making vases out of clay and love story times. They extend their imagination as they role play in the home area and play with the small world

figures. Children enjoy celebrating a range of festivals and different lifestyles. They have plenty of fun, building their mathematical thinking by designing photograph frames with hammer beads, spiders webs with collage materials and jigsaws. All children relish sensory experiences as they listen to music. They experience different fruit textures and run their fingers through the sand or water, which further enhances their out of school experiences.

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

The provision is good.

Children are highly valued because the staff have a sound understanding of special needs, which involves them in working in close partnership with parents or other professionals and accessing specialist training. This means that all children are included and join in the activities. Art work for all ages of children is celebrated as staff broadly display their paintings on the walls, promoting a welcoming environment for children and their parents. Children become aware of the wider community as they play with the dolls, small world figures, complete jigsaws and read books. They celebrate a range of festivals throughout the year, such as Easter or Chinese New Year when they make dragons out of recyclable materials. This further contributes to children's understanding of different lifestyles.

The children behave very well, and staff's continual use of praise and encouragement helps to create a positive environment where children feel good about themselves. The staff are polite and attentive encouraging children to play with their toys and talk about what they are doing and children respond warmly to their carers. Children are developing good social skills and a clear respect for others because staff have invited them to contribute to the club ground rules and acceptable behaviours. This means that children have a good understanding of right from wrong. They behave well, showing consideration and thoughtfulness through their interactions with their peers and adults.

Children's needs are met well because warm and friendly relationships have been established between the staff and parents; information is shared regularly. Parents enter the setting readily and engage in easy conversation with the staff about their children's activities and interests. They are provided with detailed information about the setting as part of the enrolment procedure and monthly newsletters keep parents up to date with forthcoming activities. Parents comment positively about their children's care and out of school activities. This meaningful relationship between home and the setting positively contributes to children's continuity and quality of care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe, comfortable and well equipped environment because the staff have a commitment to continual review and development of the service. Clear policies and procedures are in place which assist the staff team to work well together to provide an effective service for the children.

The staff regularly attend training events, such as 'Health and Safety', 'Manual Handling' and 'Child Protection', which contribute to children's well-being. They ensure that children are generally well protected because they are only collected by authorised people, and non-vetted persons are not allowed access to them. All the relevant daily documentation is in place, however the children's accident and medication records lack detail. The staff and visitors attendance records do not consistently show the times they are on the premises; and there are no complaints records. This means that children's welfare is not fully safeguarded.

The children benefit from the appropriate adult: child ratios and experience of the qualified staff. The setting follows rigorous recruitment and vetting procedures for adults who care for the children that helps keep them safe from harm. The staff handbook and formal induction programme helps them implement policies and procedures consistently, which helps safeguard children's welfare. Staff are committed to their own self development through their ongoing childcare training and regular team meetings helps staff share ideas, which contributes to the quality of care offered.

Children are cared for in a family group setting and informal key working supports small group activities so children's experiences are happy and positive. They have freedom of movement throughout the setting because staff organise the space well and set up activities before children arrive. The staff plan the activities well, so children benefit from fresh air and enjoy a balance of structured activities and self initiated play. Children have lots of fun and enjoy a broad range of activities both on and off the setting. Information is shared with parents regularly promoting children's continuity of care.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaint 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):

- devise and implement complaints records in line with new guidelines
- review the registration systems to show the times adults are on the premises
- review the procedures for parent to sign accident and medication records when children go home on transport.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)