



Imperial College Union

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY312126
Inspection date	07 April 2006
Inspector	Martha Naa Ahimah Darkwah
Setting Address	Imperial College, Beit Hall, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2BB
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Registered person	Fit For Sport Limited
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care, Out of School 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?

Imperial College holiday play scheme is one of 6 play schemes run by Fit for Sport limited. It opened in 2005 and operates from the theatre, dinning room, concert hall and gymnasium within the Beit Hall site of Imperial college Union.

A maximum of 45 children may attend the holiday play scheme at any one time. It operates each week day during school holidays. There is no secure outdoor play area. However, children are taken regularly to local parks and play grounds.

There are currently 69 children on roll. Children come from the local community. The

play scheme employs 6 full time staff. There are 2 volunteers, 3 of the staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

The play scheme is a member of the Lawn Tennis Association, The Football Association and the British Heart Foundation

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is very well supported by staff who are trained in first aid. Children are independent in self-care skills and know why they wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating or after engaging outdoor activities. Staff follow good procedures to ensure that children who become ill while attending the club receive appropriate attention and that their parents are informed. All staff members running the club hold valid first aid certificates.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise everyday and they are able to make good progress in their physical development. They thoroughly enjoy energetic games in the extensive local outdoor playgrounds and parks. Children know that exercise is beneficial to their health and well-being. They engage in a range of vigorous, physical, outdoor activities provided in the Peter-pan adventure playground at Hyde Park. For example, children enthusiastically followed clues given in balloons to look for the 'hidden treasure' whilst enjoying an Easter treasure hunt and team games on the ship in the playground. Children excitedly talked about the anchor on the ship and sails. They understand the importance of taking regular exercise as a way to maintain their health. However, children had limited access to water during the trip to Hyde park although they know that is good for their health.

Children are learning about different types of fruits through interesting games. For example, they participate in memory games based on different fruits. This is extended by the staff dividing the children into different fruit groups for some developmentally appropriate activities, bouncing banana, strawberry sprinters and apple athletes.

Parents provide food for their children which is stored appropriately. Lunch time is a warm and sociable time for children as they sit at the table with staff to enjoy their food and engage in warm conversations.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment, which enables them to feel happy and settled. They enjoy various sessions of developmentally appropriate sport activities. Children enjoy activities provided with great emphasis on fun within a safe and structured environment. This enables children to move around freely and enjoy games and sports to develop physical and social awareness. Children are

building close and caring relationships with each other and with staff. This helps them gain a sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self.

The staff follow good outing procedures to safeguard children. Children enjoy well planned outings and trips with good security precautions. For example, during outings there is a higher staff to child ratio and children use individual wrist bands with contact numbers. Staff are deployed very well in the enclosed playground and conduct head counts periodically to ensure safeguard children. Fire procedures are in place and children practice regular weekly fire drills to safeguard their welfare in the event of an emergency. Fire fighting equipment is strategically located and is regularly checked for its effectiveness. There are suitable risk assessment procedures in place.

Children have access to a range of safe, developmentally appropriate sporting equipment and resources. Children are protected. Staff have a good working knowledge and understanding of what to do to protect a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Younger and older children are enjoying the benefits of an active, healthy life style. Children are full of energy and take much pleasure in being active. Staff are very good role models to children as they lead and organise fun games for the children based on their interests and abilities. Staff talk to children very well. They ask lots of open-ended questions and help children to extend their learning by making suggestions in their play.

Children enjoy daily sessions on 'keeping the future fit'. These sessions are an integral part of the children's daily activities. Activities are well designed to educate and encourage children to appreciate the value of living a healthy lifestyle through fun and games. For example children enjoy playing multi- sports, sports challenges and relay races. They are able to use their imagination and skills regularly as they engage in acting out ghost games and enjoying innovative dance moves such as moon walk or dance like an Egyptian.

All the children take an active part in in and outdoor physical activities. Within the structure of the day, children can engage in activities, such as arts and crafts. However, younger children have limited opportunities to relax in the club and choose either quiet games or reading according to their individual needs in a soft play area.

Children are well supported by staff who are very skilled at encouraging them to extend their experiences and by listening and talking with them. Younger and older children get along together well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and children with special needs are

warmly welcomed into the play scheme. They develop a positive attitude to others because staff plan a variety of sports and games that positively represent the interest of children who attend and from those from the wider community.

Children engage in interactive sessions where they are encouraged to bring different fruits. They talk about why they choose that particular fruit. For example a kiwi or mango. Staff encourage children to talk about the origin of exotic fruits and enjoy tasting sessions. Children then reflect on the key sport played in the country where the fruit originates and later design sports costumes for that country through arts and crafts.

Children are generally well behaved and polite in response to the expectations of staff. They take turns and are able to follow instructions very well. Children are happy because their individual needs are met effectively. Children help to evaluate activities after each play scheme. They complete a child friendly feedback questionnaire where they draw a happy or a sad face to show what they thought of each activity and trip. This helps staff organise activities suited to children's interests and needs. Parents are involved in evaluating the extent to which their child's needs was met by the club through completing questionnaires. They are given a detailed parents guide which has all relevant details and a summary of all policies and procedures. The guide also refers parents to the website for full details of the policies and procedures for the club.

Children are learning about the world they live in and the beliefs of other people through sports and active life style. They are developing a positive self-image. They have great fun as they participate in various festivals, for example, Easter treasure hunt and Chinese New Year. Children engage in purposeful activities which helps them to learn about other countries and their cultures. For example they talk about their countries of origin and have made flags which represent their country and have looked in detail about how people in those countries live.

Children benefit greatly from the continuity of care because staff share and exchange relevant information with parents about their child. This promotes good relationships between staff and parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are very happy and settled as staff ratios are maintained. Staff are effectively deployed to support children in their care, learning and play.

Most of the legally required documentation which contributes to children's health safety and well being is in place. However, some are not in sufficient detail. The policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and are personalised to be used effectively.

The setting is committed to improvement and development. Management are keen to develop staff's knowledge and skills, to benefit the children by accessing training courses offered. The setting is meeting the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There are complaints to report.

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 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):

- increase children's access to water during physical activities in the park.
- create opportunities for younger children to choose quiet times and when they can rest and relax in a quiet area.

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