



Ingestre Road Community Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	116329
Inspection date	15 February 2006
Inspector	Malini Parmar
Setting Address	Ingestre Road, Camden, London, NW5 1UX
Telephone number	020 7267 0281
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Registered person	Ingestre Road Community 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?

Ingestre Road Community Centre opened in 1975. It operates from a community centre on an inner city housing estate in Camden, London. A maximum of 25 children aged between 5 to 8 years may attend at any one time. The provision serves the local and wider community and places are open for older children. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 25 children on roll. The group supports children with special educational needs and children whose first language is not English.

It provides an all year service, during term time it operates from 15:00 to 18:00. The summer scheme operates for four weeks of the school holidays and children can attend from 08:30 to 16:00 or from 11:00 to 16:00

Children have access to a large hall, two smaller rooms and a fully enclosed outdoor area. There are two open plan kitchens at either end of the building and toilets along the corridor.

Six staff currently work with all the children. The group receives support from Camden's Youth and Play Service.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about healthy hygiene practice through the daily routine. They are, for example, encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times and benefit from useful discussions about "germs" to support their understanding of maintaining their health. Children benefit from positive steps taken by staff to prevent the spread of infections, such as sterilising tables before children eat. Children are assured of receiving appropriate treatment in the event of an emergency as there are sufficient members of staff with current training in first aid. Children benefit from clear procedures followed by staff for the reporting of accidents. Their health however, is compromised because procedures followed for the administration of medication are not thorough.

Children clearly enjoy a range of healthy and nutritious snacks, these are supplied by parents and therefore meet children's dietary needs. Healthy eating is effectively promoted as clear guidance is provided to parents about nutritious and balanced meals. In addition, they are encouraged to inform staff about perishable foods in order that they can be stored safely to prevent unnecessary contamination. Children have access to fresh drinking water at all times to ensure their energy is always replenished.

Children benefit from daily opportunities for fresh air and vigorous exercise. They learn to hop and jump as they, for example, play hopscotch in the garden. They enthusiastically participate in whole group races, learning to manoeuvre around objects and one another to stay safe. Children dance freely to a range of music, and learn new skills as they attempt to manipulate their bodies and control their movements to match the beats of their favourite songs. They particularly enjoy playing group games such as "colours".

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive happily and settle well, they are warmly greeted by staff and other children and this contributes to a welcoming environment. Children quickly make

independent choices in their play as the sufficient range of toys and resources, are easily accessible.

Children's risk to accidental injury is minimised by generally effective procedures, staff make risk assessments to ensure all fundamental safety measures are securely in place. Children receive useful explanations of how and why certain actions may injure them, and as a result they are developing some awareness of how to protect themselves from some dangers, for example, they know it is unsafe to run indoors. Children are mostly supervised as they move freely in the suitably organised space. The entrance is in the main, monitored by staff to enable children to feel secure. Fire safety is given appropriate priority; procedures are in place, and drills are practiced according to the patterns of attendance of all children. As a result most children are aware of procedures to follow should they need to evacuate in an emergency. Some gaps in ensuring the safety of electrical equipment used by children increase the risk to their safety.

Children's welfare is protected by the core staff's secure knowledge and understanding of issues surrounding child protection. Most staff are aware of keeping children safe from harm and what would happen in the event an allegation is made against them.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children clearly enjoy a range of interesting opportunities and, in the main, they are successfully engaged in a variety of activities. Children benefit from being able to contribute their ideas, which are then considered by staff when they plan regular outings into their local and wider environment.

Children develop firm relationships with one another and the staff, and willingly work together to, for example, develop new dance moves for their show. They receive sound levels of support and encouragement to extend their thoughts and ideas while participating in activities. Consequently, children learn new techniques and develop new skills as they, for example, learn to fold and sew a variety of resources to make "bracelets and necklaces", which they then take pride in showing their friends. Younger children, in particular, benefit from the daily opportunities to engage in imaginative play to mimic their observations of the world around them. They, for example, delight as they take their "dollies" for a walk and make cups of tea. Children delight as they experiment with the "soft gooeey" texture of the "warm" clay and use it to make candle holders.

Children sit in small groups at meal times, at these times they engage in lively conversation with staff and their friends. Occasionally, however, as they begin to finish their lunch the level of noise increases significantly.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children confidently share their ideas and experiences in an environment which welcomes their contributions, this is encouraged particularly during individual conversations with staff. Children experience the value of their own and wider cultures, through posters, books and by participating in topics about it. This enables all children to feel secure and consequently they receive greater chances of strengthening their self worth. Strategies to support children with special educational needs are evolving.

Children receive sound levels of praise and encouragement for their achievements to boost their confidence and enhance their self esteem. They, for example, delight as their hard work is displayed for others to see and radiate as they are rewarded with positive comments from all around about the posters for their party. Children, are in the main, well behaved. They happily take turns and younger children benefit from strategies in place to ensure they have equal access to, for example, the pool table, as they learn to negotiate their turn. Occasionally, however, children do not respond positively to staff's instructions because these are not always supported with explanations. At these times children ignore staff and their behaviour changes.

Children's sense of security is fostered by the systems in place to promote healthy partnerships with parents. Children's individual needs are documented, but due to ineffective monitoring of children's record forms, some details remain ambiguous. Parents receive useful information about the setting. Children's experiences are verbally related to parents and all other pertinent information is exchanged on a daily basis.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Children are comfortable and confident in a setting which is sufficiently organised to meet their needs. The majority of the required records and permissions are in place, and there is an appropriate set of policies and procedures for staff to follow. The group are still working towards ensuring all the necessary policies contain the required detail. Regular meetings ensure staff are developing a secure awareness of them. Children benefit from a staff team that regularly update their knowledge and skills by attending short training courses. However, the minimum qualification level of the team falls short of the required level.

Children enjoy positive relationships with staff who are generally well deployed to work alongside them and support them in their play. They are supervised at all times by staff, and systems to ensure all staff are vetted for their suitability to work with young children are developing. Children benefit from useful aspects in the organisation, which ensures they have an interesting range to benefit from. Lapses in the organisation, however, result in some gaps in ensuring the health and safety of the children. As well as in ensuring a consistent approach to the management of their behaviour.

Improvements since the last inspection

The group have made significant progress in addressing the six actions arising from their last inspection.

Children now benefit from a staff team that have updated their knowledge of issues surrounding child protection, to secure a firm understanding, in order to safeguard their welfare. The group have now managed to ensure the majority of required records, policies and procedures for the efficient and safe management of the provision are in place. They are still working towards ensuring all contain the required detail and that all are accurately followed, as a result this continues to remain an area of improvement. Although there have not been any significant changes the manager has a clear understanding of when she would need to notify the regulator. The group have taken many positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings. All children now have equal chances to cope in the event of an emergency. However, some gaps in promoting safety remain and this continues to be an area for improvement. Procedures are now being followed to ensure all adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them, including all persons sharing the building are suitable to do so. Positive steps are now taken to prevent the spread of infection and children now learn sound hygiene practice through the routine.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

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 at least half of all staff hold a level 2 qualification appropriate for the care and development of children, where this cannot be achieved immediately set out an action plan detailing how this will be achieved including a timescale

- ensure clear procedures are followed for the administration of medication; obtain prior written parental permission, keep an accurate record of all medicines administered and ensure parents sign the record book to acknowledge the entry
- continue to promote safety within the setting, ensure good procedures are followed to monitor the entrance, ensure all electrical appliances conform to safety requirements and do not pose a hazard to children
- ensure all adults caring for children are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development and ensure children are consistently provided with explanations to help them learn to manage their own behaviour
- ensure all required records, policies and procedures for the efficient and safe management of the provision contain all the necessary detail to ensure all procedures are accurately followed

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