



Leasowe Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	306419
Inspection date	19 April 2006
Inspector	June Cotton
Setting Address	Oxley Avenue, Leasowe, Wallasey, Wirral, CH46 1RU
Telephone number	0151 639 3060
E-mail	
Registered person	Wirral Borough Council
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?

Leasowe Adventure Playground Open Access Playscheme is operated by the Department of Education and Cultural Services. The playscheme is based in Leasowe Adventure Playground, Leasowe, Wirral of which they have the sole use. The facilities comprise of two ground floor halls, a large one for more physical activities and a smaller one for quieter activities. There is a very large enclosed outside play area which is presently in the process of being re-designed to include large climbing and other adventure apparatus. The outside sports cage is presently in use. The group also have the use of toilet facilities, an office and a kitchen.

The playscheme is open term time, Wednesday to Friday 15:30 to 19:30, Saturday and Sunday 10:30 to 12:45 and 14:30 to 17:30. During the school holidays the service is open Wednesday to Sunday 10:30 to 12:45 and 14:30 to 17:30. A maximum of 50 children aged between 5 and 8 years old can attend the playscheme at any one time. Older children are included on the register. There are currently 12 children aged from 5 to under 8 years on roll. The playscheme currently supports a number of children with special educational needs.

The Playscheme employs four staff. All of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate playwork qualifications. Two staff are working towards NVQ level 3 in Playwork.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children demonstrate an understanding of the importance of following good hygiene and health routines as they independently manage their own personal care. A sick child procedure is in place where parents will be contacted to take their children home. A freezer is in use but staff are unsure of its temperature, this puts the children at risk of cross contamination. Children enjoy participating in a wide range of indoor and outdoor physical activities, such as football, basket ball and tennis. Individual children gain confidence and test out their coordination and organisation skills in team games or small group activities.

Children understand the importance of having regular drinks to stay healthy as they purchase drinks throughout the session. They can also request water to drink, however, fresh drinking water is not readily available for children to access themselves. Most staff have up to date first aid training thus ensuring that the correct procedures are followed to keep the children safe.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe with activities which are appropriately supervised by staff. They feel welcome and comfortable in the safe premises with their art work displayed on the walls. However, some storage areas are disorganised. There is adequate space both indoors and outdoors for children to move freely and confidently within the large hall, quiet room and outside play area. They can choose from a range of basic resources and equipment which is easily accessed or available from staff members.

The children gain an understanding of the emergency escape procedures as they have the opportunity to practise fire drills. Their well-being is protected with daily risk assessments and the staff's knowledge and understanding of health and safety policies and procedures. Children's welfare is safeguarded as all members of staff attend training on child protection issues and are aware of the procedures to follow if

they have a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have a balance of activities provided both in the playroom and outside play area which are well supported and supervised by staff. Staff play with the children and help to create a happy and settled atmosphere. Children generally behave well in the group setting and are cooperative with staff and each other. They are happy and confident and enjoy being together in the relaxed and friendly environment. Children relate well to staff and each other and develop a strong sense of belonging as their achievements are valued. They are well supported by staff who skilfully adapt activities or introduce new ideas to involve children across the age range.

Children confidently accept challenges and persevere with good levels of concentration when playing carpet bowls, making craft Easter scenes and making cards on the computer. They are involved in planning the new outside play area and their ideas are valued. Although play equipment is limited, staff are resourceful in ensuring that the children are well occupied. Adults and children communicate effectively and take time to listen and respond to each other in informal chats. Children's individual interests and preferences are recognised and provided for in energetic physical play or quiet, relaxing games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are aware that certain rules are required to maintain a safe and fair environment where they play happily together and have fun. A fully inclusive environment enables children across the age range to be actively and confidently involved in all areas. Children with additional needs are discreetly supported and included by staff who are sensitive to individual strengths and weaknesses. Self-esteem and confidence is developed in a positive approach where staff and children offer each other regular praise, value kind actions and celebrate success. Children play cooperatively and learn to negotiate successfully in a game of pool or carpet bowls. Children learn about other cultures through activities, discussion and celebration of different cultural festivals.

Parents' written information does not include a complaints procedure. A system to maintain a log of complaints which will be shared with parents has not yet been devised. The scheme does not always obtain relevant information on the children from parents, as no check is made of whether forms have been returned. This means that staff do not always have emergency contact numbers neither do they hold any information about possible allergies which the children may have. Informal chats, welcome leaflets and notices promote an effective partnership between staff and some parents to support children in the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children have the use of a hall, quiet room and outside play area for their activities providing an environment where they have fun. Staff work well together to promote the children's welfare and enjoyment. A record is kept of children's attendance and procedures are in place to identify children under eight. Children benefit from good levels of support and supervision which enables them to feel secure within the setting.

Staff are very experienced and all have playwork qualifications, two are working towards a relevant higher qualification appropriate to their positions. Children are well supervised both indoors and outdoors with a good ratio of staff to children. The staff are aware of when to stand back and allow children's play to develop independently and when to become involved and offer new opportunities and maintain children's interest and enthusiasm. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Two recommendations were made at the last inspection, these were regarding food safety and hygiene and staff qualifications. Staff have now attended training which included knowledge of food safety and hygiene. Two staff have almost completed NVQ level 3 in Playwork.

Complaints 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.

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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 the freezer is maintained at the correct temperature to avoid cross contamination
- find ways for children to have free access to fresh drinking water
- ensure that cupboards and storage areas are well organised to allow easier access to equipment
- inform parents about the complaints procedure which includes the telephone number of the regulator. Devise a system to maintain a log of complaints which will be shared with parents
- improve record keeping by ensuring that personal information regarding the children is collected and easily available in case of emergency and to ensure that children's needs are fully met

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