



Elmbridge Borough Council Play house

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY279259
Inspection date 01 June 2005
Inspector Carol Newman

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Registered person Elmbridge 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Elmbridge Borough Council Play scheme (Walton Playhouse) registered in 2004 to provide out of school care. It operates out of a large hall, a small side room and one upstairs room close to Walton town centre. Children from the locality and surrounding area attend.

The holiday play scheme caters for 40 children aged from 5 years and provides drama and art sessions. The group is open during most school holidays between the hours of 08:30 to 17:30, Monday to Friday.

There are sufficient staff present to meet at least the minimum required staff to child ratios and these have undertaken in-house inductions. Two members of staff have achieved their Introduction to Playwork Basics Plus course and five members of staff are currently training.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene routines when staff remind them to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating snacks and packed lunches.

Children benefit from the advice given to parents regarding the contents of a healthy lunch box and the safe storage of foods. Children eat a healthy packed lunch stored in a cool bag as there are no refrigeration facilities. Children have regular drink breaks throughout the day. However, they do not have free access to fresh drinking water. Staff gather all relevant information regarding diet and medical history. This ensures children's individual dietary and medical needs are met.

Children play many active games enthusiastically. They develop a positive attitude to physical activity as they take turns to lead games such as "Port to Starboard". Children choose whether to play energetically or quietly according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play safely in the well organised provision because staff are aware of the potential hazards such as the children's access to fire exits. Staff carry out regular risk assessments to ensure that children play in a safe environment at all times. Children understand the procedures to follow in the event of fire. They practice regular fire drills and respond knowledgeably when staff remind them of the fire routines. Children play safely together as the older children demonstrate care and respect for the younger ones. They are particularly careful when involved in running games.

Children work collaboratively on art and craft projects for the wall display. This shows that their work is valued. They group together to play a wide range of games using new resources such as giant Connect 4.

Children benefit from the staff's clear understanding of how to protect the children from harm. They ensure that they accompany children to all areas, if members of the public are on the premises.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children confidently join in with and lead games such as "Port and Starboard". They co-operate well when building with Lego or playing games such as Connect 4 and Twister. Children choose between the quiet room activities, team games and the art room according to their needs.

Children pretend to be in a ship when they play Star Wars. They laugh and chat happily when playing a game for four people. Children count their score on two dice when playing snakes and ladders. Children work well independently and co-operate well when working as a group.

Children imaginatively develop their own art and craft projects. For example, making paper chains and painting and sticking when constructing their summer pictures. They confidently ask for resources when necessary.

Children enjoy singing "Everywhere we go". They enjoy singing louder and louder as one child leads and the others copy.

Children willingly participate in a wide range of adult and child led activities such as the drawing competition. During games such as mixed football they negotiate their roles, for example "I can be England and you can be Chelsea" and "Can't it be Arsenal."

Children state that they like coming to the play scheme and discuss their favourite activities. They vote enthusiastically to choose games when together as a group and they tidy up after each activity. This develops their independence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are warmly welcomed to attend the play scheme. Children confidently access all resources and activities. They have a wealth of choices regarding the activities and how to spend their day. Children generally behave well and they understand the rules of the group. They respect each other and respond appropriately to the sensitive intervention of staff.

Children benefit from the positive relationships that staff develop with parents. Policies and procedures are displayed so that parents can refer to them at any time. Staff welcome the parents comments and enquiries. However, the children's activities are not effectively communicated to parents on a daily basis.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children settle happily in the well managed provision. They benefit from an organised day that includes periods of active and quiet play. All staff undertake induction training and several staff achieve, or are working towards, a recognised Playwork qualification.

Children are well protected when visitors are on site. They are asked to sign in and out of the visitors book and their identification is checked. The group have all relevant documentation in place and it is well maintained.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- ensure children have independent access to regular drinks throughout the day
- ensure parents are made aware of the children's daily activities.

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