



Reigate + Redhill YMCA

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	05 April 2006
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Registered person	Reigate & Redhill YMCA
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?

Reigate and Redhill YMCA Children's Services is a voluntary after-school club, holiday play scheme and Saturday playscheme for children with special needs run by the YMCA. It operates from four self-contained rooms in the YMCA premises in Redhill. There is a hard sports court and enclosed grassed area for active play and children also have access to an indoor sports hall. A maximum of 100 children may attend the setting at any one time. The after-school club operates from 15:15 to 18:00 during term time and the holiday club opens every school holiday, from 08.45 to 18.00. The Saturday Yippee Club operates from 10:00 to 16:00. Children are drawn from a number of local schools and attend for a variety of sessions. There are

variable numbers of children aged from 5 to under 8 years on roll for each of the groups and children aged up to 15 years may also attend. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs or who speak English as an additional language.

There are 23 members of staff, 6 of whom have playwork qualifications, and 2 of whom have early years qualifications. In addition, 5 staff members have relevant sports coaching qualifications and 5 staff are currently working towards a relevant recognised qualification.

The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's physical well-being is suitably promoted because the premises are acceptably clean and hygienic. Children enjoy access to a range of suitable opportunities for vigorous play both indoors and out. Children are able to respond to their own needs because staff provide easily accessible drinks at all times. Staff encourage healthy eating by offering parents good information on providing suitable packed lunches on the play scheme and by providing healthy snacks in the after school club. However, although staff encourage children to wash their hands before eating, and display posters explaining why this is important, they do not ensure children have access to sufficient wash hand basins to enable them to do so. As a result children receive mixed messages and do not follow good hygiene practices. Staff have suitable procedures to promote children's welfare by managing and recording the administration of medication and of minor accidents appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in secure and welcoming premises; they benefit from good quality physical play equipment such as bouncy castles. There is sufficient space and appropriate furniture available to meet their needs and an acceptable range of toys and play resources available although these are not always used effectively to enable children to engage in a broad range of freely chosen, satisfying play experiences. Staff act promptly to address some identified weaknesses which jeopardise children's safety. For example, YMCA staff working in other parts of the centre no longer use the kitchen in the play area, and childcare staff are clearly identifiable by children and parents. There are suitable procedures to keep children safe when collecting from school. However, although staff conscientiously record children's arrival at the premises, they do not always ensure that departures are recorded. A record of visitors is not consistently maintained. As a result it is sometimes unclear which adults and children are on the premises and this puts children at risk. There are clear child protection procedures; staff are aware of their

responsibilities and the manager is confident about how and when to report concerns. However, some staff lack confidence in this area, which limits their ability to protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop their self-confidence and feel they are valued because they are encouraged to play an active part in the group, for instance by participating in a YMCA council. Children are usually grouped with others of a similar age and enjoy a reasonable range of age-appropriate activities although staff do not always offer a sufficiently broad choice throughout every session. Some staff offer good quality support and encouragement and form positive relationships with the children. Older children reflect the good example set by the staff in their dealings with younger ones. For example older boys spontaneously offer younger ones a turn at the pool table, and older children give enthusiastic praise in the craft room such as, 'Hey, that's such a good idea!'. However, indifferent organisation limits the quality of children's experiences. Some parts of the premises are underused so children are sometimes cared for in large groups. Staff are not always effectively deployed to ensure children are purposefully occupied throughout the day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children and their families feel at ease in the provision because staff create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The staff provide good information for parents about the service provided before children attend and work effectively to make them feel welcome and valued. Parents appreciate the approachable staff and interesting activities and feel their children are happy to attend. Children behave well, for example older children encourage and include younger ones as they reflect the positive example set by the staff. They develop a sense of responsibility because they are involved in decisions about the setting through the YMCA council. The setting is proactive in encouraging all children to take part in a variety of activities and to learn to respect and value difference. The setting makes good provision for children with special needs, for instance providing effective one-to-one support to ensure they are fully included in mainstream activities. A specialist club is held once a week to meet the needs of children who may not be able to benefit from the mainstream provision. There are good systems for liaising closely with parents both before children attend and on an ongoing basis to ensure individual requirements are clearly known and met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The required documentation is in place and is stored suitably to keep children's personal details confidential. There are appropriate procedures in place to ensure

that staff and volunteers are suitable. Staff receive basic induction training covering areas such as child protection, health and safety and behaviour management, and staff are encouraged to obtain recognised playwork qualifications. There is an annual appraisal system to help staff develop their skills. This assists them in providing satisfactory care for children. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The organisation of staff, space and resources is inconsistent. It does not ensure children can choose from a wide variety of stimulating play experiences throughout the day with suitable opportunities to relax, read and play quietly. At lunch times children under 8 years are cared for in groups of over 26 and the required adult:child ratios are not maintained. Consequently children sometimes receive too little adult attention.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous care inspection the provider agreed to devise and implement a policy for the safe administration of medication, and also to maintain suitable records of both accidents and of any medication administered. In addition the provider agreed to identify how staff qualification requirements would be met. Children's health and safety has now been improved because staff follow an appropriate policy that ensures children only receive medication in accordance with their parents' wishes. Clear records of medication administered and of accidents are maintained; these are countersigned by parents. Half of the permanent staff hold relevant childcare qualifications or are in training and, as a result, children receive satisfactory care.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004. 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):

- improve arrangements for handwashing before meals

- improve safety by ensuring the registration system shows when children have left the setting and when visitors are on the premises
- ensure that children are cared for in groups of no more than 26 and that staff ratios are maintained at the start and finish of the day and during lunch times
- improve the organisation of staff, space and resources to provide a wide choice of stimulating play experiences throughout the day with suitable opportunities to relax, read and play quietly

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