



Parklands Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY240601
Inspection date	04 April 2006
Inspector	Janette Mary White
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Registered person	Medway Council
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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?

Parklands Playscheme opened in 2002 and operates from 5 rooms in a purpose-built building. It is situated in the town of Gillingham, Kent. A maximum of 24 children may attend at any one time. The out of school is open each weekday from 15.30 till 18.00 for after school care, and for 2 sessions on Saturdays between 09.30 till 12.00 and 1.00 till 15.30, and for the holiday club from 09.30 till 15.30 and for 39 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 100 children aged from 5 to under 16 years on roll. Some children may only attend the holiday club once a year. Children come from a wide catchment

area. All the children who attend have special educational needs, and they also support a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The out of school employs two staff and both hold appropriate early years qualifications. The remaining staff are regularly employed casual staff.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children thrive because staff follow efficient procedures and practices which meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs. Children are reminded to have a drink and to rest. Some children are encouraged to play with quieter activities, to relax and to calm the very lively children. The staff are continuing to develop children's healthy eating habits through the introduction of healthy foods.

Children are able to access outdoor play each day. They take part in good hygiene practices through the daily routines such as washing hands after toileting and before eating. Staff wear disposable gloves, which helps to protect children from cross infection. Two members of staff hold a current first aid certificate. Although, this does not include paediatric first aid. Children are protected through the use of records such as the accident sheets which provides information for parent. However, the procedure is not effective in ensuring all the processes are followed. These records are not being retained for the required timescales.

Children explore and are frequently encouraged to safely test their limits through stimulating daily indoor and outdoor experiences. Staff have a broad range of knowledge for each child's stage of development. Their effective understanding means children are confident to try out new skills within the safe environment. For example, children are excited as they play with water or create a painting.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the freedom to move around and play within safe boundaries. This is because most children have an allocated member of staff ensuring good levels of supervision. Children's safety is carefully considered for example by completing a written risk assessment. However, the emergency evacuation procedure has not been practised recently. Physical boundaries have been designed to ensure the safety of children. Good safety and security procedures are in place. For example, an intercom system is installed, visitors are challenged and their details recorded.

Children benefit from a range of safe, good quality equipment and resources. Child height furniture encourages independence. Staff encourage children's understanding of safe practices. For example, by reminding children not to throw toys. Children's welfare is supported through developing child protection policies, based on the Local Safeguarding Children Boards. The staff have an competent understanding of child

protection issues, but they are less aware of some of the procedures. Parents feel their children are safe and well care for.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy their time and play with the stimulating activities. Some children only attend once a year, but fondly remember the staff and the environment. They achieve well because staff are highly skilled and use their exceptional understanding of each child's own individual special need and their stage of development. For example, by using the child's 'All about me' form. Most children arrive happy and eager to participate. Unsettled children are comforted by a familiar member of staff.

Children are enthusiastic and enjoy the challenges set by the staff. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self. Children begin to express their ideas as they join in a diverse range of exploratory, sensory experiences and creative play. For example, the sensory room is used to develop children's experiences of sound, touch and sight. Investigation through resources including paint, water and sand, helps children to express their creative abilities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The group specifically cares for children with special needs and staff adapt activities so they can experience a range of stimulating activities appropriate for their level of ability. Children's special needs are recognised and there are good liaisons with parents and other relevant agencies. Most children have individual education plans and these are used to identify the action needed to support individuals. Parent's views about their child's needs and interests are actively sought before the child starts at the setting, and on a regular basis throughout their attendance at the group. For example, parents complete and update the 'All about me' form. Staff gather information regarding children's background needs such as their religion and language spoken at home. Although, they have not ensured that parent's give written permission to seek advice in an emergency. Parents are pleased with the service they receive and are able to verbally communicate with their children's key worker.

There is a policy on equality which promotes anti-discriminatory practice for all children. Children have access to varied resources, toys and equipment to enable their individual development. There are examples of positive images portrayed in posters and displays in the main rooms. The provider has a sound understanding of the policy for parents to make a complaint, but is less familiar with the complaints procedures. Children have good relationships with members of staff. Positive behaviour is promoted well and staff ensure that children understand what is expected of them by providing explanations.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff including the manager are appropriately qualified, vetted, and children are never left alone with unvetted persons. Staff are inducted at the beginning of their employment. This means children's care, safety and well being are promoted. Although, not all staff are familiar with the policy and procedure for uncollected children. Staffing ratios exceed the requirements as each child is individually assessed and support is appropriate to the child's needs. Children have plenty of space to move around and make choices as they play. Toys and resources are well organised to encourage safe, easy access for all children. Policies and procedures contribute to the safe management of the provision and help to promote children's welfare, care and development. However, there is no system to ensure all records are retained for the required timescales. Records about individual children are shared with their parents. Records of attendance do not show clear arrival and departure times for children. Although, there are clear arrival and departure times for staff and visitors. The registration certificate is not displayed in a prominent position for parents. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous inspection highlighted two recommendations to; extend the supply of toys which reflect the diversity of society and produce a written sick children policy.

Since the last inspection; they have developed the resources reflecting equal opportunities and produced a written sick children's policy.

As a result, children have more opportunities to use the resources and see examples of positive images. In addition the parents have a clearer understanding of the sick children's policy and how this meets the needs of the children.

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):

- obtain written permission from parents to seek advice in an emergency.
- ensure a daily record of the children's hours of attendance includes the time of arrival and departure is maintained.
- ensure the registration certificate is displayed in a prominent position.

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