



Gearies Infant School

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	11 April 2006
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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?

The out of school club at Gearies Infant School is one of two out of school care provisions run by the Jules et Lis organisation. It opened under new ownership in 2003 and operates from the main hall and the IT suite. It is situated in a residential area in Gants Hill, Ilford. The club is for children attending Gearies Infant and Junior Schools. A maximum of 16 children from 4 to 8 years may attend the club at any one time, with children up to the age of 11 years also in attendance. The club is open each weekday from 15.15 to 18.00 hours, during school term times, and all day in school holidays, from 08.30 to 17.30 hours. All children share access to an enclosed play area.

There are currently 36 children aged from 4 to 11 years on roll. The club is able to support children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs six staff, including the manager, with four staff working at each session. At least half of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment where they learn to follow effective hygiene practices, for example, they understand the need to wash their hands before a cooking activity and that they will spread germs if they lick the spoon while making their cakes.

Children who are unwell are not fully protected because, although parents give prior consent to administer medication, the administration is not accurately recorded. This is a breach in regulations. However, although policies state that staff will administer long term medication, if necessary, there is a general understanding, amongst current staff, that they will not administer medication and, therefore, it is unlikely that children will be at risk.

Children are not protected sufficiently from infectious illnesses because, although a policy is in place that states that children who are infectious do not attend, staff are not aware of this policy and do not act consistently if children have contagious ailments.

Children are mostly protected if there is an accident as staff have current first aid qualifications and the system for recording accidents is appropriate and confidential, although minor accidents are not generally recorded. Not all parents have provided signed consent for treatment in case of an emergency which impacts on the child's care in case of serious injury.

Children enjoy regular physical activities that help keep them in good health. They play outside and extend their physical skills, on a daily basis, for example, when they ride on scooters and bikes and play with tennis racquets and balls. They negotiate space well, manoeuvring round obstacles and skilfully riding around the large, open playground.

Children's fine motor skills are developing well. They are competent when selecting and using small equipment such as scissors, glue sticks and paintbrushes

Children are beginning to learn about healthy eating when they are provided with basic snacks during the holiday scheme and a selection of hot and cold meals, at the After School Club, that are healthy and nutritious.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. The premises are very secure and there are good procedures in place to prevent unwanted visitors gaining access. The outdoor play area is generally safe for children to enjoy fresh air and play, however children are exposed to possible hazards, both inside and out, because there are no formal risk assessments carried out prior to sessions starting.

Children develop an awareness of safety within the setting because staff provide clear reminders and explanations. They are able to access safe, suitable equipment that meets their needs and is appropriate for their ages and stages of development.

Although there are written procedures outlining actions to take in case of emergency, children and staff do not practice the emergency evacuation procedures on a regular basis. Therefore, children are not familiar with the routine.

The children's welfare is not fully protected as staff have an incomplete knowledge of the procedures to follow in case of any child protection concerns, however this has been identified as a weakness and staff are due to attend training in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children gain from being together in an informal and relaxed setting. They communicate well with each other and develop good relationships. They learn to co-operate and work well together in large and small groups

Children participate in a range of activities that are appropriate for their ages and that encourage their creativity. For instance, when they are provided with a variety of materials to make photo frames and happily experiment and explore different ways of making and decorating their frames.

Children relate very well to staff. They confidently approach them for support indicating good, trusting relationships. Children are encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings through good questioning by staff who respond well to their questions and explanations about what they are doing or thinking.

Children choose from the range of activities that are provided for them. There is no planning or evaluation of activities during the holiday scheme, which impacts on the balance, value and variety of activities offered to the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated as individuals, staff know them well and acknowledge their

differences and preferences. They develop an understanding of the wider community through creative activities and by celebrating different festivals.

Staff verbally liaise, with the teachers in the school, to support children with additional needs who attend the club. However there is no written information to provide consistency of care.

The children benefit from praise and encouragement and some basic ground rules that are consistently applied. Children understand why certain behaviour is not acceptable because staff make expectations of behaviour clear and give reasons for their requests. Children take responsibility for their own behaviour when they are asked why they mustn't run around or fight with each other.

There is no written information to ensure parents are aware of their child's day at the holiday scheme, however it appears that parents are provided with more information during term time relating to the After School Club. Staff exchange information with parents, informally, at the end of each session.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All staff are suitably qualified and have had appropriate checks to ensure they are suitable to work with children. Ofsted have not been informed about all the members of staff who have managerial responsibilities during the Holiday Scheme. Although the registered person is in breach of a regulation, the member of staff concerned, regularly deputises at the After School Club and appropriate checks have been carried out to ensure she is suitable to work with children. This means the risks to the children are minimised.

Staff do not meet regularly to plan and evaluate the activities they provide and their practises. This impacts on their working together as a cohesive team and the constant level of care provided for the children.

Children are not fully safeguarded as, although there are policies and procedures in place, it is not evident how they are used in practise. Staff are not fully aware of their roles and responsibilities regarding the care and protection of the children because information is not passed on to them to create a consistent care environment. They are mostly unaware of the National Standards for day care and the regulations set out within the standards.

Most required records are maintained, however the register does not include times of arrival and departure and the documentation relating to administration of medication is not organised effectively to fully support the children's welfare and safety.

Overall, the setting meets the needs of the children for whom it provides

Improvements since the last inspection

An action was set at the last inspection to ensure that there are effective procedures in place for checking that staff are suitable to work with children. The registered person has reviewed her recruitment and checking procedures to ensure the children are protected and cared for appropriately.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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

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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):

- Obtain written consent from parents to seek treatment in case of emergency
- plan and provide a balanced range of activities to meet the needs of all the children
- ensure staff are fully aware of, and implement, the policies and procedures relating to the day-to-day running of the setting and the care of the children, specifically those concerned with the administration of medication, risk assessments and when children are unwell
- plan and practise regular emergency evacuation drills.

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