



## Arty Party

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY310603
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 April 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Silvia Richardson
<b>Setting Address</b>	St Michael and All Angels, 1 Pond Road, London, SE3 9JL
<b>Telephone number</b>	0208 852 1205
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Arty Party
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day 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](http://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?

Arty Party out-of-school group opened in 2005. It operates from a church hall situated in the residential area of Blackheath. There is an enclosed area for outside play. A maximum of 34 children may attend the group at any one time. Arty Party is open weekdays from 09:00 to 15:30 during school holidays.

There are currently 84 children aged 4 to 11 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The group employs four staff. At least half the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate qualifications and all have relevant experience. Arty party is a specialised out-of-school activity group, offering art, craft and creative play and learning experiences.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

The main hall is kept clean and tidy during and after activities, promoting children's welfare. Children are happy volunteering to assist, for example, with sweeping the floor and washing paint brushes, helping them to learn and understand the importance of routine cleaning to maintain a healthy and safe environment. Children understand the need to wash their hands well after activities and before handling food, to protect their health. They use the bathroom without direct supervision, promoting their independence, but tend to leave the bathroom untidy after use. Adults ensure the toilet and wash facilities are cleaned routinely to minimise the risk of spread of infection. Children's health is safeguarded if they become unwell, as parents or carers are contacted to collect children immediately. Children are excluded from the setting if they are sick or infectious and the group follows a clearly set out code of practice for good hygiene and infection control, protecting the health and welfare of all the children.

Children have excellent opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise, promoting their health and welfare. Routine breaks are scheduled throughout the day, so that children can run around outside and also enjoy group games inside at the end of the session. Physical activity for the children is very well balanced with the art and craft activity plans, so children do not lose interest or become restless. Children have a snack at break times and are offered drinks of water on return from outside play, promoting their welfare. Many of the children bring fruit as snacks and as part of their packed lunches and know that fruit is a healthy option. Adults ensure that any food allergies or sensitivities are clearly recorded and arrangements for bringing and storing food is carefully managed to protect children's health. Any accidents are clearly recorded and signed by parents, although not all are correctly dated to ensure full accountability.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Adults carry out thorough risk assessments before each session, so that they can ensure the premises and equipment are safe. Children have supervised access to specialist cutting tools and are shown how to use all tools, equipment and materials safely. Adults clearly explain potential hazards to children, so that they understand the importance of using resources safely, such as scissors, inks and glue. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe through being encouraged to sit down when using materials. They are also encouraged to pick up dropped items from the

floor, with explanations such as, someone might slip, so they learn how to keep themselves and others safe. Children move around the premises in an orderly manner and form lines before going outside, helping to keep them safe and accounted for.

Procedures are in place to keep children safe, such as regular practice of emergency escape plans. Fire exits are clearly marked and drills are recorded. Evacuation times are a little slow and notes are made to work at improving this with the children, to ensure they leave the building promptly. Children are kept safe and protected from harm as adults know how to respond to child protection issues. They know how to make an appropriate referral should concerns arise. Adults listen to children and develop trusting relationships that help children feel safe.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely happy, settled and enjoying the activities, because they get to use a wide range and variety of different mediums and materials, that motivate their interest and provide new challenges. Children are offered plenty of help and support as necessary, so that the activities are achievable for different ages and abilities. Children confidently make choices and decisions about what they want to do and the materials they wish to use, as adults provide much scope for children to develop their own ideas. The activities provide excellent opportunities for children to develop their imagination, because adults positively support children to move away from conventional forms and shapes, for example, creating and modelling from clay, facial expressions with exaggerated features.

Children are learning and acquiring a broad range of new skills and techniques, as these are clearly explained and children have much opportunity to practice. Children are introduced to a design stage, where they can sketch their initial ideas and then develop these through the course of their craft activity. Children confidently asked questions, because adults create a warm and relaxed environment that encourages children to express themselves and to also say how they feel. Children receive continuous positive feedback, helping them to sustain their interest and commitment to see an activity through to completion. Adults explain methods succinctly, stage by stage, so children are clear about what they are doing and what happens next. Children are purposefully and constructively occupied throughout the session, because it is exceptionally well planned and organised to meet their play, learning and care needs.

Children are chatty and sociable and have a well developed sense of purpose and belonging, because adults organise the sessions exceptionally well. The schedule is particularly well balanced, with short breaks and outside play, which successfully keeps children rested, interested and motivated in the tasks at hand. Children's efforts and achievements are valued and appreciated, facilitating children to express their individuality and feel good about themselves. The children say they like doing new and different things and making new friends. They say they have a lot of fun and the activities are really great. Children become extremely absorbed in the activities

and also frequently express to each other how much they are enjoying themselves.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children settle quickly and easily and make new friends because they are very warmly welcomed. Adults create a relaxed, inclusive environment, that helps children feel happy and secure in expressing their individuality. Activities and resources are very well presented, so that children can explore their racial and cultural identities. Children are fully supported and encouraged throughout the session, promoting equality of opportunity and ensuring children with special needs enjoy positive and inclusive play experiences.

Children are very settled and co-operative because adults continually praise desired behaviour, helping to keep children focussed. Adults are skilled in holding and diverting children's attention, keeping them busy and purposefully occupied, so that they share resources well and feel able to make choices. Children make good use of their time and make the most of activities on offer, because adults build on children's previous experience and provide reassurance to children for whom the materials and techniques are new. Children make positive contributions to the group through helping to tidy and clear their areas before the next stage of an activity.

Partnerships with parents and carers are fully encouraged so that the needs of individual children are properly addressed and met. Parents provide written information of any allergies, sensitivities or special needs, so that adults can provide appropriately for children. The groups policies and procedures are made known to parents and carers, so that they are aware of how children's care and welfare are promoted within the setting. Some good written information is available about the group, so that the specialist nature of activities provided is clearly known, enabling parents to assess and make informed decisions about the suitability of the group for their children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Adults are properly vetted ensuring they are suitable to look after children. Appropriate records, policies and procedures are in place, ensuring the safe and efficient management of the setting and these are implemented effectively, so that the welfare, care and learning of the children are actively promoted. A good ratio of qualified staff and experienced assistants are employed, so that children receive excellent levels of support and supervision. Adults are very attentive to the children, ensuring plenty of individual help is offered, so that children fully participate and experience a sense of accomplishment. Children are extremely happy, settled and enjoy immensely their creative play and learning experiences, because the setting is exceptionally well managed and skilfully lead.

The hall is very well set out so that children can sit together and enjoy a sense of

belonging and inclusion. The arrangements provide structure and purpose and scope for movement, so that children may select and use materials of their choice. An extensive range of art and craft resources, tools and equipment, are available to the children and these are offered to them at the appropriate stage of a particular activity, so children are not confused or overwhelmed with possibilities. Other resources such as scissors and felt pens are well organised and sorted into sets, so that children can help themselves to these as needed.

Activities are especially well planned and executed with clear explanations to help children understand processes, such as what they are going to do and the stages to the finished product. The activities are particularly well organised, so that children are involved in one or two projects simultaneously. This enables children to remain purposefully and constructively occupied while one project may be drying for example, before continuing to the next stage. Adults work extremely well as team, supporting the children throughout the session and ensuring the schedule remains well balanced to meet children needs for a change of pace. 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 have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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 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 all accident records show dates including the year
- develop the system for raising the alarm to improve emergency evacuation

procedures

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)