



Holiday Fun @ Victoria Park Nursery School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY311182
Inspection date	06 April 2006
Inspector	Jenny Scarlett

Setting Address	Victoria Park Nursery School, Victoria Park, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1EH
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Registered person	West Berkshire 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?

Holiday Fun @ Victoria Park Nursery School opened in 2005. It operates from Victoria Park Nursery School in the centre of Newbury in West Berkshire. A maximum of 20 children may attend the holiday club at any one time. The holiday club is open during the Easter and summer holidays from 10:00 to 14:00. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 8 children aged from 3 years to under 8 years on roll. Children come from a wide geographical area. The holiday club supports a small number of children with special needs.

The holiday club employs 5 staff, 3 staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. There is 1 staff member working towards a recognised early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene through daily routines and staff giving gentle reminders at appropriate times, for example, before lunch. Written policies are in place for medication, sickness, accidents and emergencies, ensuring that children are well cared for. Children benefit from the availability of staff on site, who have a suitable knowledge of first aid.

Children are able to access snacks of fresh fruit when they are hungry. These are freely available throughout the morning, providing the children with the choice whether they wish to have a snack or not. Children take their own packed lunches to the holiday club. This means their dietary needs are met as the food is provided by their parents. Staff are aware of children's individual dietary and medical needs and are able to meet these at all times. Lunch times are a sociable occasion for the children. They sit together with their peers and staff. Children talk excitedly with staff about their morning and discuss the foods they have in their lunch boxes. They are learning good independence skills as they attempt to open the food packaging such as crisps, yoghurts and fruit sticks. Children access fresh drinking water throughout the session and are able to take responsibility for quenching their thirst.

Children's health is promoted as the premises are maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. Their independence is encouraged as they see to their own needs when accessing the bathroom. In addition, the suitably equipped bathrooms allow children to maintain good hygiene practices. For example, liquid soap and hand drying facilities. The play environment is clean and well maintained. Staff maintain good hygiene within the setting. They give due consideration and attention to the level of cleanliness without limiting the range of activities offered to the children.

Children benefit greatly from their ability to regularly use the nursery school's extensive outdoor facilities. They have daily opportunities to develop their large muscle skills whilst exercising in the fresh air. They receive varied opportunities to climb, imagine and run in the garden and are confident to initiate their own play, such as throwing the ball into the tunnel.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The holiday club provides a warm welcoming environment, which is very well resourced with a variety of stimulating activities. Children play in a spacious, well prepared environment because staff plan the room, the activities and equipment layout carefully. This supports the children's enjoyment in the activities, aids their

independence and provides good challenges for all age groups. Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised in a well-designed setting, which has excellent safety and security precautions. These include varied height gate locks, interior door locks and identification and monitoring of visitors.

The staff have a good understanding of safety issues regarding the maintenance of resources and equipment. Daily and weekly checks are undertaken of the setting and resources prior to their use. These include a setting up routine to provide a safe and pleasing environment for the children. The staff's good knowledge of health and safety issues and vigilant monitoring of the children indoors and out, ensures that they are safe and secure in their play. Emergency evacuations are practised regularly. However, although children attending the holiday club experience fire drills, the details recorded in the fire log does not take into account the patterns of attendance for children or how complicated the procedure is.

The children learn to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe, through staff explaining safe practices, such as not running indoors. Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and know how to proceed if they have concerns about a child in their care. This supports children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle quickly on arrival at the holiday club. They are motivated and interested in exploring the available resources and planned play opportunities. They make decisions for themselves regarding the activities they wish to experience as well as making choices to play indoors or out. Children are involved in interesting activities throughout the session. They show good concentrating skills when designing and making Easter hats. Children gain a sense of achievement with their end products, for example, they show the lorry they make with junk and explain the picture they have painted with mummy in the car. Children are enthralled at story time and listen intently as the staff read stories. They join in singing sessions enthusiastically. Children are well stimulated and are having fun because staff have planned appropriate activities with flexibility and take into account the ages and development needs of the children. Play space and the environment is used effectively. This allows the children access to a mixture of active and energetic play as well as opportunities for quiet times, such as stories.

Children are confident in their environment, they settle happily and are eager to take part in most of the activities. This is because they are familiar with the surroundings and know the staff well. They select their own activities from a well-presented range of play equipment, developing their independence skills. Children have warm positive relationships with the caring staff. Staff join in their play, such as exploring the sand and water, play dough and painting activities. They provide a good balance of activities where children can play and be independent as well as having good opportunities to initiate their own activities. As a result, staff meet the individual needs of the children well promoting their independence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the good partnership that exists between the parents and the staff. Detailed personal information about the children is carefully maintained and easily accessible for reference, such as in the case of an emergency. Parents are provided with good information about the holiday club. There are regular, informal opportunities for discussion about the children's day and any care issues. In addition, parents and children complete a written evaluation of the holiday programme, which is used for future planning. Children are looked after according to parents' wishes, which has a positive impact on their continuity of care. Parents spoken to at the time of inspection spoke highly of the holiday club and staff and are very happy with the care their children receive.

Children's behaviour is good. They behave well because staff adopt a consistent and positive approach to the management of their behaviour. Children understand the clear guidelines, know the routines well and are encouraged to take care of their environment. Children know right from wrong. They are sensitive to the needs of others, readily share toys and resources and co-operate with each other. The staff work hard to encourage all the children to develop these skills. Children contribute to their own learning, they make choices in activities, ask for help when needed and help take the responsibility for tidying up.

The children benefit from the staff acting as good role models. The staff interact positively with the children and are well deployed to support and enhance their play. The staff use praise and encouragement effectively to help promote children's confidence, independence and feelings of self worth. Staff have considerable experience of caring for children with a variety of additional needs. All children are fully integrated into the setting. They have full access to all activities and receive very good support from the staff.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff work well together to encourage a happy atmosphere and provide a stimulating, well-balanced programme for children to enjoy. Children come into a well-prepared environment and are immediately able to choose what they would like to do. The day is well-planned, allowing children time for quiet and active play. Good use is made of the available space both indoors and out so that children can easily access a variety of different resources and activities during the week. The effective organisation of the available space, resources and staff levels ensure that all the children attending are given full support. The commitment of the staff, consistently promotes the children's well-being. Staff offer a calm and happy environment where very good relationships, between adults and children are evident. As a result, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Staff demonstrate a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities and are willing to undertake training to develop good practice. Information kept about children

is relevant and helps promote their welfare. Staff plan and record good hand over notes to keep everyone up-to-date with daily events and messages which, ensures the smooth operation of the holiday club. Staff are employed to work in the maintained nursery setting and are familiar with the policies and procedures. However, the policies and procedures in place are written for the nursery school and some of these are not specific to the out of school activities.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints 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. There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- further develop details of records of the evacuation procedures
- ensure all documentation is up to date and relevant to the setting.

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