



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY234801

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 29/09/2004
Inspector Name Linda McLarty

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Garston Adventure Playground
Setting Address Bowden Road
Liverpool
L19 1QP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Garston Play Association 506966

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Garston Play Association
Address Bowden Road
Liverpool
L19 1QP

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

Information about the setting

Garston Adventure Playground (GAP) was registered in 2003. It operates from six rooms in an open access building with a large adventure play area, in the Garston area of south Liverpool. The out of school and holiday playscheme serves the local area. It is a registered charity.

There are currently 286 children from 5 to 16 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. 50 children have special needs and at the time of the inspection there were no children on roll who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens six days a week all year round. Sessions are from 16.00 - 19.00 Tuesday to Friday, and 11.00 to 16.00 am on Saturday during term time for the out of school club, and 11.00 -18.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 11.00 to 16.00 am on Saturday for the holiday play scheme.

Two part time and two full time staff work with the children. Two have early years qualifications. There are no staff currently on training programmes. The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare partnership (EYDCP.)

How good is the Day Care?

Garston Adventure Playground (GAP) provides a satisfactory quality of care for children in a stimulating and caring environment.

The provision is generally well organised, but staffing levels meet minimal requirements for the indoor activities, and are insufficient to monitor all areas of the exciting, challenging outdoor adventure play area. Management recognise this as being particularly important to this site. Staff are currently working towards self-assessment with other local voluntary providers of adventure play. Most required documents were available and in place, except for policies relating to health, and children with special needs, and accident records are kept but not signed by parents. There are sufficient space and resources to support the needs of children attending, and staff use the rooms well to offer activities which meet the needs of the different age groups.

The children benefit from the staff's commitment to improving the service they offer, which is demonstrated by their attendance at ongoing training. Good use is made of

external staff such as artists to supplement the outdoor play. The children's work is well displayed in the art room, and shows that they enjoy a range of media and techniques. Most aspects of health and safety are in place, and staff are very safety conscious. Staff are working towards making safe the adventure play area, in order to fully meet the National Standards. Risk assessment is focussed upon helping children extend skills and confidence by taking managed risks in what staff recognise as a uniquely challenging open access site.

Behaviour management is firm but fair, with clear systems in place to prevent bullying. Staff treat children with respect and humour.

Questionnaires evidence that parents appreciate the caring staff and stimulating environment. Very good use is made of photographic displays in the setting to share information with parents about the type of activities enjoyed by the children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable, this is a first inspection since registration.

What is being done well?

- Staff are committed to improving the site, and the opportunities for children to experience adventurous outdoor play, and are continually adapting the environment to provide continuing and varied challenge and interest for the children who attend.
- The indoor rooms are used well to offer a good range of activities, such as art and craft, air hockey, snooker, table top games, and a computer in quiet room for supervised homework activities.
- The staff manage behaviour well, with realistic and clearly explained expectations, and the policy to prevent bullying is implemented effectively.
- Children enjoy opportunities to play outside in a well-planned, attractive environment in which they can climb, balance, build, run, explore, socialise, help care for living things, and take risks which extend their confidence and skill in physically challenging ways.
- Staff are committed to continual improvement of their own understanding of how to promote children's experience of adventure, and vary activities frequently, with the result that some children attend from the other side of the city to enjoy the exciting facilities.

What needs to be improved?

- the staffing ratios, so that all areas of the site can be supervised, which would help staff manage the risks inherent in the outdoor site, and minimise any possible adverse effects of the play of the eight to sixteen year olds on the five to seven year olds

- the arrangements for recording hours of attendance for staff, and for retaining registers of attendance for children who attend workshops inside the building
- the safety of children using the top of the site, which has an area which is currently without a barrier, which leads to a deep incline over which younger children could fall, although plans are in place to extend the existing barrier
- the storage arrangements for the gas cylinder used for barbeques
- the arrangements to make fresh drinking water available at all times, and the type of snacks available in the tuck shop, which do not offer nutritious alternatives to sweets, and do not encourage healthy eating
- the documentation does not include a policy for children with special needs which is based on current legislation, or a sick children policy, and the information for parents is not specific about the fact that the registered person cannot take responsibility for keeping children on site if they choose to leave
- some required documentation is not stored on site, partly because the manager lacks secure knowledge of the requirements of the National Standards.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure that you have sufficient staff to care for the amount of children attending in order to meet required staffing ratios of 1:13.
2	Devise and implement a system of registering staff attendance on a daily basis which records the exact hours of attendance of staff.
6	Ensure that the gas cylinder is stored safely in compliance with Fire Safety requirements.
8	Ensure that the snacks offered to children are nutritious and encourage them to eat healthily.

12	Make sure parents and carers realise that the registered person cannot take responsibility for keeping children on site if they wish to leave.
14	Devise and make available to parents written statements on special needs, and on the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious, which are consistent with current legislation and guidance, and ensure that parents sign the record of accidents. Ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible on the premises and available for inspection at all times.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.