



Broadfields Community Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160971
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Inspector	Maggie Thorp
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Registered person	u/a
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Broadfields Community Play Scheme was registered in 1992. It is run by a voluntary management committee of local people. It has operated from premises owned by the Scout and Guide Movement for the last four years. Children play in the hall on the ground floor, one of the activity rooms upstairs and the garden. The kitchen and boys and girls toilets are also used by the play scheme. The play scheme is open during the first four weeks of each school summer holidays, Monday to Friday, from 09:00 to 16:00.

A maximum of 25 children from 5 to 8 years may attend at any one time. There are currently 35 children on roll and children attend for a variety of sessions. Older children up to the age of 14 also attend and children with special educational needs are included. Some children attending speak English as an additional language.

There is a team of six staff, of whom four are qualified. The play scheme receives advice and support from Barnet Play Association and receive funding from a Barnet Service Level Agreement and Barnet Small Grants Programme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning about being healthy, and the health and hygiene practices in place at the play scheme generally promote children's health well. In addition, children learn about the extra care they need to take on outings to farms from booklets and discussion. However, children's health is not promoted by occasional towel sharing and floors not being kept sufficiently clean.

Children receive good care when they have accidents or if they need to take medicines. First aid trained staff administer reassurance and appropriate treatment and careful records are kept of this. However, parents only sign medicine administration records; this does not ensure parents are aware of any accidents.

Children eat well and have plenty to drink. Water and other drinks are available at the play scheme and on outings. Children enjoyed large jugs of squash when hot and tired during their outing to a bowling alley. Children with allergies are helped to stay well by the caution staff exercise to prevent children's allergies being triggered.

Children exercise and enjoy vigorous activity throughout the day in the outdoor play space and on outings. They enjoy lively games of football and other games, thus developing their physical skills. Outings to the bowling alley further enhance this.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children have sufficient space to play in this welcoming, well resourced environment. Children are confident and enthusiastic as they choose freely from the wide variety of easily accessible play resources. Art activities and games are particularly well resourced.

Children's well being is safe guarded by the staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection and children are secure on the premises. The arrival and collection of children are carefully monitored and staff are well deployed both indoors and outside to supervise their activities. The play scheme has taken generally good steps to ensure the environment is safe for children through risk assessment and regular safety checks. Children are well practised at emergency evacuations and fire safety

is good.

However, there are weaknesses in children's safety on outings and transport. The contact information for children's parents is not always available on outings, so there is a risk of delays in contacting parents in an emergency. Also some private staff cars are used to transport children without all the appropriate checks being done and written parental consents being obtained. However, children are well supervised. They wear badges with the play scheme's name on and the leader's mobile phone number is written on the back. Children are frequently counted and safety on roads is well managed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good balance of outings, team games, small group activities and individual play. Children are very involved in their play and their imagination and creativity is fostered very well by the wide selection art and craft materials freely available throughout the day. Children draw round each other to make people in their pirate desert island frieze, and use large boxes to make a dolls' house together. Children take pride in the individual models they make too - cards for family celebrations and trucks from recycled waste materials.

Staff are deployed well and are very effective in supporting children's play. Children use their own ideas and learn simple craft techniques to enable them to achieve the effect they want. They take turns and gain new skills as they use the computer games, air hockey and pool table upstairs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children relate well to each other and to staff. The happy relaxed atmosphere contributes to the friendships enjoyed between children. Children stand chatting and laughing together, and list "being with my best friend" as a good part of the play scheme. They are confident and caring towards each other, and older children help younger ones, for example, typing each child's name into the score screen at the bowling alley.

All children are included in the activities and children with special needs receive good support and so participate in the games and outings organised. Other children praise their successes, for example when bowling, and include them in their teams. The local authority resources are used effectively to provide individual support for any children who need this.

However, children do not have access to many activities and resources that reflect and value their different cultural backgrounds. Children's parents are welcomed and kept well informed. They are given an informative little booklet and about the play scheme and the weekly programme so they can chat to their children about each

day's activities.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The registered person is operating in breach of their conditions of registration. The manager [who is also the chair person of the play scheme's management committee and a childminder] cares for her minded children whilst simultaneously working at the play scheme. These 1 and 2-year-old minded children are outside the age range of the play scheme's conditions of registration. Moreover, their health and safety is not protected by the access to electrical equipment, stairways, and outside play space in the provision.

Staff have been checked for their suitability to work with children, but there are weaknesses in the procedures for outings and transport. Children have good relationships with staff and they benefit from the recent training they have undertaken. There are appropriate records in place to support staff's understanding of each child.

However, the registered person does not recognise the need to work within the play scheme's conditions of registration. The warning letter issued after the last inspection as a result of the same breach of conditions has not been heeded. The setting is not meeting the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the level of qualified staff has increased to the required level. Children's health and safety are better but not fully safeguarded by the cleanliness of the premises. Toilets, play, and meal table surfaces are clean, but floors and hand drying are not sufficiently hygienic. The information provided for parents now ensures they have a good understanding of the play scheme's policies and the activities their children participate in. Children's well-being is aided by the well written policies, staff's greater awareness of these and the more comprehensive record keeping. Only accident records have still to improve.

However, the requirement to adhere to the ages of children covered by the play scheme's conditions of registration has not been met. This has compromised the safety and good organisation of the play scheme for children as reflected in the report. This remains an outstanding issue from the last inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

No complaints to report.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure your conditions of registrations are met at all times
- improve children's safety on outings and when using private transport by having parent's contact information readily accessible and checking that the documentation of car drivers and their insurance cover is appropriate.

These actions are set out in a **notice of action to improve** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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