



Stay and Play, Tithebarn School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	501492
Inspection date	15 June 2006
Inspector	Sarah Taylor
Setting Address	Mauldeth Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 3NG
Telephone number	0161 432 4941
E-mail	
Registered person	Lyn C Henshaw
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?

Stay and Play has been an out of school group since 1997. It operates from Tithebarn School in the Heaton Mersey area of Stockport. Stay and Play caters for children who attend Tithebarn School.

The group operates from a single classroom located in the school playground. They also have additional space within the main school building. Outdoor play is provided in the school playground.

Stay and Play runs from Monday until Friday, from 15.15 until 17.45 during term time

only. There are currently 50 children on-roll who attend for a variety of sessions each week.

There are five staff members who care for the children, of whom four hold relevant qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from infection as they wash their hands at appropriate times, and the areas used by them are sufficiently clean and tidy. Children begin to learn about looking after the areas as they tidy up and put equipment away. There are adequate medication administration and first aid procedures in place, which ensures that children's health is maintained.

They enjoy a choice of snacks, some of which are healthy, such as breadsticks, toast, chocolate biscuits and fruit, when they arrive at the setting. They have continual access to fresh drinking water, which they can help themselves to when they are thirsty.

Children experience a range of physical play activities, which contributes to a healthy lifestyle. They benefit from regular outdoor exercise as good use is made of the outdoor play area when the weather is appropriate; this increases their level of fitness.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright and welcoming environment that offers space for them to play and explore outside and areas inside for games, television and general play. Organisation of the play area allows children to move around freely without the worry of injuring themselves. Children independently select from a sufficient range of toys and equipment that stimulates their interests. These are maintained to keep children safe.

Risk of accidental injury is minimised through the good supervision by staff and through appropriate safety and security arrangements. Staff carefully monitor the entrance area to manage access into the building. This enables staff to take positive steps to ensure that there are effective security measures to safeguard children's welfare. Safety precautions, such as fire detection equipment and 'finger safes' on the doors, contribute to the protection of children. Procedures for evacuation of the building are carried out so that children become familiar with practices.

Children's welfare is protected. Staff have a good understanding of their role with regard to child protection. Procedures are in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's guidelines and shared with parents so that they are aware of staff

responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

A stimulating learning environment and happy atmosphere ensures that children have positive experiences and enjoy their time at the group. They are secure in their relationships with staff and feel at ease to express themselves in play. All children spend their time purposefully and take part in a wide range of activities, such as small world, games, construction and art and craft. Their achievements are celebrated with enthusiasm so that they feel pleased and proud of themselves.

Children enter the out of school club confidently. They play games together and with staff, such as tennis. Those who wish to have time to relax choose quieter activities, such as drawing and colouring. Children play together well and enjoy imaginative games like making a den with the large construction equipment and some curtains. They work cooperatively with each other to build the structure and thoroughly enjoy their play within the area. They help with the maintenance of the school vegetable patch and orchard as they water the plants and weed the area. They are able to use the school computer suite and the children's kitchen area where they cook each week.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are very well behaved in response to the expectations of staff. They are learning to act responsibly; for example, they tidy away toys and help to set up the games. Staff's frequent use of praise supports the children's efforts and fosters their self-confidence to try new challenges.

Children from a variety of backgrounds and abilities are warmly welcomed. Staff create an environment so that all children feel valued and learn to respect others. Children take part in activities to gain an understanding of similarities and differences and there are basic resources reflecting our diverse society to help to increase their awareness of the wider world. As a result, children relate well to one another and are comfortable in expressing their views. They make their own decisions about whether they want to take part in an activity and confidently inform staff about their needs. Staff divide their attention well and treat the children with equal concern. This establishes a sense of security and trusting relationships.

Parents are made to feel welcome and staff establish friendly, open relationships. Their views about their child's needs are acted upon. This helps the children to feel reassured and settle in quickly. However, the complaints procedure for parents is not in line with the National Standards.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a positive and supportive environment. This effectively promotes their development and ensures that they enjoy their time. The organised surroundings allow them to move around in a secure manner and to make choices and decisions. As a consequence, they are confident to initiate their own play and show independence.

Staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities and deploy themselves appropriately to support children's individual needs. They work sufficiently together and communicate well to keep one another informed, and this ensures that the group runs smoothly.

In the main, documentation and records are maintained in good order to promote children's welfare. Most policies and procedures are up-to-date, although some lack sufficient detail, and an accurate record of visitors to the setting is not kept.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as appropriate recruitment procedures are in place to ensure that staff are suitable before employment. The organisation of staffing levels ensures that required ratios are met at all times and the children have an appropriate level of attention and support.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the group were asked to ensure that Ofsted's details were available to parents. The provider has included the contact details in the policy documents. They were asked to ensure that all consents are in place and that documents are confidential. The provider has sought relevant consents from parents and all documents are confidential. The group were asked to ensure that all relevant policies and procedures are in place and the provider has taken some steps to ensure that documentation is up-to-date. However, some policies do not contain sufficient information.

The steps taken help to ensure the appropriate care of the children attending the group.

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

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 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):

- update the complaints procedure in line with the addendum to the National Standards
- ensure all policies and procedures are up to date
- ensure all visitors to the provision are recorded.

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