



Thomas Jones Playcentre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	159486
Inspection date	13 July 2006
Inspector	Martha Naa Ahimah Darkwah
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Registered person	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
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?

Thomas Jones Play Centre is one of 18 run by the Community Education Division of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It opened in 1975 and operates from Thomas Jones School in North Kensington. A maximum of 40 children may attend the centre at any one time. The centre is open three days per week from 15:20 - 17:50 during term time. All children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 65 children aged from four to eight years on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area. The centre currently supports a number of children with

special educational needs, and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The centre employs five staff. Two of the staff including the manager hold appropriate qualifications. One staff member is working towards a qualification.

The setting has met assessment standards for quality in play, an independent quality assurance for children's play providers.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The child centred environment is kept clean to a very good standard to help safeguard children's health. The children are very confident and understand the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines. For example, they know that it stops germs spreading when they wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children's health is very well supported by staff who are trained in first aid and emergency procedures. Effective policies and procedures are in place for first aid and accidents, thereby helping to ensure children are well looked after. They are protected from infection because staff follow appropriate hygiene procedures. Children are independent in self-care skills and know why they wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating or after engaging in outdoor activities. Staff follow good procedures to ensure that children who become ill while attending the club receive appropriate attention and that their parents are informed.

Children benefit from a healthy snack/tea menu. For example, a variety of fruits, soup, beans on toast, cheese biscuits, tuna pasta and yoghurt are offered. They sit in small groups to enjoy a variety of fruits in a relaxed and social atmosphere, which fosters their social skills and promote good manners. Staff are aware of children's dietary needs and food preferences because these are discussed with parents. As a result, children's individual dietary and cultural needs are taken into account. Children are developing a fondness for healthy foods because fresh fruit and raw vegetables are provided at snack times. They are given choice in the 'organic café' which helps them make healthy choices. Drinking water is available in a jug at all times for children to help themselves. They know the benefits of drinking water especially during hot weather and when exercising, because staff explain to the children why they need to drink so that they do not become dehydrated. They have easy access to a fountain in the playground.

A range of vigorous, physical outdoor activities are provided in the adjacent outdoor playground. Children use equipment such as scooters very confidently and are developing good coordination and control over their bodies as they ride around. Staff organise fun group games for the children. Children have the opportunity to engage in various ball games and a variety of team games. They understand the importance of taking regular exercise as a way to maintain a healthy lifestyle. For example, both boys and girls have a great time playing football, they laugh with great excitement as they kick and pass the football to their peers with a great sense of achievement

especially when the staff praise them for doing this very well.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise everyday. They thoroughly enjoy a range of energetic and quieter games in the extensive landscaped outdoor playground. For example, the children's committee suggested to organise more competitive games such football, hockey and basket ball with other play centres.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a child focused environment. They are very happy in the setting. They show a strong sense of belonging as they greet each other, staff and visitors with warmth and affection. The play rooms are bright and welcoming for children. Good use is made of the outdoor play areas. Vigorous and quieter activities are arranged to allow children to pursue interests in which they feel safe and at ease. They have access to a wide range of good quality toys and equipment, which are appropriate for their age and development. Activities are carefully selected and planned in advance to ensure that they are suitable for the children.

Children's risk of accidental injury is reduced because staff ensure safety measures are met. For example, toys and equipment are checked on a regular basis to reduce any hazards. Staff conduct written risk assessments and safety policies and procedures are in place to further protect the wellbeing of the children. A well organised registration and signing in and out system ensures children are safely accounted for. All electrical appliances show the current date of inspection and maintenance in line with Health and Safety Executive requirements. However, young children are not adequately prevented from having access to electrical plugs at low level.

Children are effectively supervised as correct ratios are maintained and staff are effectively deployed in the playground, indoors and when on outings. Staff's vigilant observation ensures children are collected by the authorised person. Children are learning about staying safe. They are aware of evacuating the building in an emergency because they practise with the staff regularly. Staff keep a good record of fire drills in sufficient details.

Children's welfare is safeguarded through the staff's good understanding and knowledge of child protection matters; they have procedures to follow should they have concerns about the wellbeing of a child. There are clear procedures in place if an allegation is made against a member of staff or a volunteer to help protect children further.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children really enjoy their time at the after school club. They are eager to greet staff and friends and settle confidently. Children have great opportunities to explore a wide

range of play equipment independently and engage in organised activities. They are able to relax and choose, for example, either quiet games, craft activities, imaginative play, reading or vigorous play, depending on their individual needs and interests.

Younger and older children are enjoying the benefits of an active, healthy life style. Children are full of energy and take much pleasure in being active. Staff are very good role models to children as they lead and organise fun games for the children based on their interests and abilities.

Staff are very motivated and enthusiastic, and this is evident as activities are very well presented, and capture children's interest. Children are delighted as they develop their imagination by dressing up using the props provided. For example, dressing up clothes and toys are presented in boxes. Staff interact very well with the children; they laugh, join in games and have fun with them as well as giving support when needed. Consequently, the children are very confident to approach them and express their needs. Children are very keen to know what is going on. They openly ask questions and staff respond with great interest.

Children are happy and eager to participate in the activities provided. They concentrate well on their chosen activities. Children have good opportunities to be creative. For example, they have good opportunities to create useful items from clay. They enjoy pounding the clay, moulding it into shape and wetting it when required to soften it to create their own work. Children enjoy writing secret messages through creative activities using a variety of media. They are well supported by staff who are skilled at encouraging them to extend their experiences by listening and talking with them. Their achievements are valued as their art work is acknowledged and praised by staff and displayed on the walls.

Children are developing good independence as they help to tidy up and choose activities in which to participate. Children are kind and considerate towards each other and they play well together. They have a great time playing a variety of games together. Children are very good at deciding their roles and sharing ideas. Once a week, children have the opportunity to enjoy exploring dance, sound and rhythm through Capoeira which is provided by a specialist tutor. They join in dancing, singing and experiment with musical instruments with great delight and laughter.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy because their individual needs are met effectively. The after school club is welcoming to children, it provides them with good opportunities to socialise with others within their school in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Staff provide activities and resources that positively represent the children who attend as well as the wider community. This helps children to develop a very positive image of themselves and others. Children are learning about the world they live in and the beliefs of other people, as they enjoy taking part in various cultural festivals.

Children's behaviour is good, they work well together on projects such as modelling and playing a variety of games and are able to co-operate and share. This is helped

by the clear rules, simple explanations and the gentle encouragement of the staff to resolve minor disputes. Staff are appropriate role models and set good examples for the children. Staff know the children well and enjoy their company. Staff have a great deal of respect for the children and this is evident in the children's behaviour. They are learning about being kind to each other, as staff teach the children consideration for others, which creates a calm and harmonious atmosphere. Staff show profound interest in what the children have to say, of their thoughts and feelings. They praise the children regularly for their efforts and achievements thereby developing the children's self-confidence and self esteem.

Children develop positive self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and make choices and decisions in their daily routine through the children's committee meetings. It gives children excellent opportunities to effect change in their daily routine and what play activities they engage in. This helps the representatives to develop a number of interactive skills with their peers and staff and accomplish a sense of achievement when the issues they identify are implemented satisfactorily.

Parents are greeted warmly by staff, and have the opportunity to share any relevant information to ensure the needs of the child are met. Information about each child is gained through staff completing a form with parents. This helps to ensure that children receive continuity of care. Parents and children gave very positive feedback when questioned. For example, they are very happy with the care and attention their children receive. They are very happy with the service that is provided by the club. Children said that they enjoy coming here and playing with their friends and they like the staff. Children from a variety of backgrounds and children with special needs are warmly welcomed into the play scheme. They develop a positive attitude to others because staff plan a variety of sports and games that positively represent the interest of children who attend and those from the wider community.

Children benefit greatly from the continuity of care because staff share and exchange relevant information with parents about their child. This promotes good relationships between staff and parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a well-organised environment in which they become familiar with the routine and what is expected of them. This adds to their sense of security and wellbeing. Staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities and they are deployed effectively to ensure children are supervised well. This ensures all children are secure and happily engaged in meaningful activities. The manager and deputy organise the session to include a good variety of activities. This means that children are able to find something to interest them throughout the session.

Children's welfare is safeguarded through the maintenance of most of the required documentation. Policies and procedures are put into practice to help ensure that the children are cared for well. All of the legally required documentation which contributes to children's health safety and well being is in place. The policies and procedures are

regularly reviewed and are personalised to be used effectively. Recruitment and vetting policies and procedures are in place to ensure suitable staff work with children.

Staff have a clear understanding of their role in supporting the children's learning and play. They work very well as a team and are able to make the children feel happy, safe and secure.

The setting is committed to improvement and development. Management are keen to develop staff's knowledge and skills, to benefit the children by accessing training courses offered. The setting is meeting the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider agreed to ensure that the complaints procedure includes the contact details of the Disability Rights Commission. The comprehensive complaints procedure now includes Ofsted's address and the contact details of the Disability Rights Commission. This helps to ensure that children benefit greatly from the continuity of care because staff share and exchange relevant information with parents about their child. This promotes good relationships between staff and parents.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

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 young children are adequately prevented from having access to

electrical plugs at low level.

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