



Oxford Gardens Playcentre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	159481
Inspection date	22 August 2006
Inspector	Marcia Robinson
Setting Address	Oxford Gardens School, Oxford Gardens, London, W10 6NF
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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Oxford Gardens Play centre has been registered since 2004. It is run by Kensington and Chelsea Play Service, as part of the Leisure and Community Department of the Local Authority. The group operate a service consisting of a breakfast and after-school club during term-time and a holiday play scheme. The group is situated in Oxford Gardens School in the area of Latimer Road in North Kensington. The setting provides a service for children from the local community. The group have access to several areas on site, including two halls, three classrooms, an art room, toilets for children and staff, staff room, an office and the use of the school playground.

There are currently 279 children on roll, for the breakfast club, holiday play scheme and out of school club. This is including children over eight years and 68 children aged between four to eight years old. The group opens Monday to Friday for 48 weeks of the year, during term-time. They operate a breakfast club between the hours of 08:00 to 09:00, an out of school club between the hours of 15:30 to 18:00 and the holiday play scheme operates during school holidays, between the hours of 09:00 to 17:30.

There are 12 staff working directly with the children. Seven staff hold Playwork, Teacher or Early Years qualifications at level 2 and 3. One member of staff is working towards achieving the level 3. Six members of staff are trained in first aid and three staff members hold food hygiene certificates.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment. They are learning about some hygiene procedures, such as washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet. However, hand washing routines are not effectively monitored by staff and explanations about the importance of hand washing is not always offered to fully promote their understanding.

Six members of staff hold current first aid certificates and well stocked first aid kits are readily accessible, which ensures children receive appropriate care in the event of an accident or illness. Good procedures are in place for first aid, medication and accidents, which are understood and implemented well by staff and shared with parents. Children are protected from unnecessary illness as they do not attend when contagious.

Parents provide packed lunches for their children, which are stored appropriately by staff. Children enjoy sociable lunch times as they chat happily together, although not all staff sit with the children, to ensure a calm and relaxed atmosphere is maintained. Information about children's dietary needs is well recorded, although the details are not always easily accessible to all staff. Fresh drinking water is available throughout the day, for example, at mealtimes and from water fountains available from the inside and outside of the premises.

Children enjoy physical play and are able to take part in a good range of physical activities, which contributes to a healthy lifestyle, including football, table tennis and various team games. Children have opportunities for well planned, interesting outings to places of interest such as the local cinema, Lego land and a local Nature trail walk in Richmond. The curriculum is extended well into the outdoor area. Children have great fun running, swinging and climbing on equipment outside. They also have access to the games room for table tennis and pool. On the day of inspection, children of mixed genders are seen playing 'three a side' football and children indoors are practising a 'Dance Attack' routine as a special event planned each year.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are looked after in a spacious and welcoming environment, where space is generally well organised and welcoming to children. For example, photographs of the children and their art work are in a wall display. However, staff have not made the best use of the space, by creating a more appropriate area for children who may wish to relax and play quietly. Children are cared for in a secure environment, where staff implement good security systems, to ensure the safe arrival and departure of children. For example, a member of staff remains at the reception desk whilst parents are arriving and collecting their children. In addition, there are

written procedures in place to protect children, for example, in the event of a child being uncollected or if a person unknown to staff arrives to collect a child. Children have access to a suitable range of play equipment and activities which are age appropriate and most are in good condition, except not all books are well maintained.

Staff and children are aware of the evacuation procedure and safe points for assembly. Children learn to keep themselves safe and avoid accidental injury through various projects, such as safety awareness and advice from staff, such as not sitting on tables or play fighting. Children are kept safe because staff conduct daily safety checks and rigorous risk assessments.

Children are safeguarded because the staff are trained in child protection and have good understanding of their roles and responsibilities in protecting children. Staff have access to all the necessary documentation to support their practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and relaxed in the setting. They are relaxed and secure in their relationships with staff and approach them confidently if they have a problem or want a change of activity. An effective key worker system is in operation and children relate very well to staff and each other. Staff are attentive and give regular praise and encouragement. Children move confidently from area to area choosing from a suitable range of planned activities, such as aerobics, candle making, sewing, fancy dress, story time and hall games. The children are able to choose from a variety of equipment and resources during art and craft activities, which enables children of all ages to express their imagination.

Staff organise interesting and new activities for children so that children have the opportunity to participate in structured activities as well as free play. For instance, children are introduced to new creative art techniques, such as pottery, mosaic design and tie dye that extend their learning and enjoyment and offer sufficient challenge. Children attending the holiday play scheme and those in the breakfast and after school club enjoy a variety of activities that are based on children's individual interests and developmental needs. Staff plan activities as a team but they do not link the programme of activities to the learning outcomes for children. This would further promote children's enjoyment and learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Good displays and projects relating to cultural awareness help children to develop a positive sense of identity and gain an understanding of the wider world. However, the variety of books and imaginative play materials that promote positive images are limited. The play scheme provides an inclusive service, where children with special needs are well supported and involved in all play activities.

Children have been involved in writing the play scheme's rules and therefore are always clear about what is expected of them. Staff have good knowledge and understanding of using positive strategies to manage behaviour. This means that children listen, and take notice of the adults.

Positive interactions and encouragement by staff mean that children behave well. They show concern and care for others, for example, as the older children are given responsibility for new or younger children through a buddy system.

Ample good quality information is made available to parents through the use of a service provision handbook and a notice board displaying a comprehensive range of policies and procedures. Staff are also available at the end of each session to ensure parents are kept suitably informed about their children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

The manager has a sound understanding of the National Standards for Out of School Care. The play service uses effective recruitment procedures, which ensures all staff are vetted and hold suitable childcare qualifications. The named deputy is currently working towards the level three qualification.

Children are cared for in a generally well organised environment. Staff are appropriately deployed to ensure the staff ratio is maintained. As a result, children receive appropriate adult attention, which helps them feel secure. However, there are a few areas of weakness with regards to children's health, welfare and the organisation of space and resources, which have not been addressed by the setting. The provider however, has a positive attitude to undertaking any improvements so as to promote the care, welfare, and achievement of the children.

All records, policies and procedures required for the safe and effective management of the holiday play scheme are in place and shared with parents. All documentation is well maintained, including those relating to the breakfast and out of school care provisions. This contributes to the welfare of the children. Staff maintain good registration procedures, ensuring all children are recorded on arrival and departure. A clear procedure is displayed for parents who wish to make a complaint but the systems for recording complaints are yet to be developed.

Improvements since the last inspection

The provision has made sufficient progress in addressing the number of actions and recommendations raised at the previous inspection. Systems are now in place for keeping Ofsted informed of significant events and changes. The setting have devised records, policies and procedures relating to lost children, risk assessments and recording fire drills. In addition they have developed systems for registering children's hours of attendance and monitoring child protection concerns; there is now 50% of qualified staff employed, which improves the health, safety and welfare of children.

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 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):

- develop activity plans to clearly show how these are linked to the outcomes for children
- improve the provision for children's health by ensuring robust systems are used to ensure details of children's dietary needs are accessible to all staff
- ensure books are well maintained and that children have access to a wider range of resources that reflect diversity and positive images
- improve the organisation by providing a suitable area for children to relax and play quietly.

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