

# St Matthew's School

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY334993
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Martha Naa Ahimah Darkwah
<b>Setting Address</b>	St. Matthews C of E Primary School, 16-18 Old Pye Street, LONDON, SW1P 2DG
<b>Telephone number</b>	0207 641 5110
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Westminster Play Centre Service
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

St Matthews out of school care is run by Westminster Play Services. It was registered in 2006 and operates in St Matthews Primary School premises in the City of Westminster, London.

A maximum of 24 children from four to under eight years may attend the club at any one time. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The club is open every week day during term time from 15:00 to 18:00. It is also open from 08.30 to 18.00 Monday to Friday during school holidays. The club exclusively serves children attending St. Matthews Primary School.

There are currently 32 children aged four to under eight years on roll. There are currently no children on roll with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are children who have English as an additional language on roll.

The club employs three members of staff. Of these, one has a recognised early year's qualification. Two staff members are working towards obtaining a qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as the setting is maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. They are learning the importance of personal hygiene through daily routines via colourful posters placed at relevant places to serve as gentle reminders. However, staff members do not reinforce this by giving children gentle reminders at appropriate times. For example, children are not reminded to wash their hands before they eat their snack.

Appropriate treatment is administered in the event of an accident as some staff members hold a current first aid certificate. Policies and procedures are in place for managing accidents and details are recorded. Parents are informed of any accidents for the wellbeing of children. Staff discuss with parents arrangements with regard to their child's medication. They follow appropriate systems in place to gain parents' written consent and record that medication has been administered and this contributes to safeguarding children. Additionally, medication is kept in a lockable cabinet on the wall which is well out of children's reach.

The setting promotes healthy eating and parents provide healthy snacks for their children. Snack time is well organised to ensure children can relax. Children eat their snack at the table as they chat to their friends about their morning and discuss what activities they are going to do next. As a result they enjoy their snack time as a social event, which helps to develop their social skills. Children are able to independently access drinking water at all times as drinking fountains are situated at different areas in the playground and a water jug with cups are provided in the play room so that they are not thirsty.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities which contribute to their good health. They are developing a very positive attitude towards exercise which is enjoyed throughout the day. Staff members ensure that the activities are fun for children and as a result children enjoy taking part in physical exercise. They enjoy playing with hoops, football and basket ball games in the playground. They particularly enjoy using the climbing frame. Children have plenty of fresh air and exercise.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and confident at the setting. They show a strong sense of belonging as they greet each other and talk to staff and their friends with great excitement. Children have access to a selection of play equipment. The range of play equipment is sufficient to offer children a variety of age and developmentally appropriate activities in all areas of development.

The safety of children is important to the staff and any potential dangers are identified and quickly reduced. For example, staff members check the equipment regularly to ensure they remain safe for children. Children enjoy using the fixed climbing frame which has a floor impact absorbing surface surrounding it for added safety. Additionally, as a result of a recent review of safety, children using the climbing frame do not wear coats and staff members are more vigilant with supervision allowing one child at a time on the climbing frame. Children are learning to keep themselves and their environment safe for example, by not leaving toys on the floor as they are trip hazards. There are annual checks on fire fighting equipment and electrical appliances.

Priority is given to making sure children will be safe in an emergency. The emergency escape plan is clearly outlined and displayed, however it is not practised regularly. This compromises children's safety because not all children are familiar with the evacuation procedure, should an emergency arise. Security of the premises is satisfactory, which also helps to protect children from possible harm and ensure their safety. For example, there is an entry phone system as added security at the gate. All visitors sign their entry in a visitor's book stating time of arrival and departure.

Children's wellbeing is protected because staff members have a sound knowledge of child protection matters. The signs and symptoms of abuse are recognised by staff and the procedure to follow for reporting concerns is understood.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the busy welcoming environment. They benefit from the close relationship they have with members of staff. The interaction is warm and friendly. Staff members laugh and have fun with the children as well as giving them support and encouragement when needed. The children are confident to approach them and express their needs and ideas. Consequently, they are confident and self-assured. For example, children are very much involved in the preparation for the South West Festival where the setting will have a float. The children have chosen the theme 'Wizard of Oz' and their ideas for the design of costumes include the lion, witch, tin man, Toto the dog and the good fairy. They are busy working towards this exciting project.

Children have good opportunities to engage in organised activities. Children have choice of enjoying in and outdoor play for part of the session. They enjoy a range of physical activities in the playground. As a result children's physical capabilities are promoted effectively and those who prefer quieter indoor activities can happily engage in it.

Children's imaginations are developing well, because the staff members provide regular opportunities to develop their imaginative thinking through a variety of art and drama activities. They enjoy painting and drawing pictures about what they do in the South West Festival in a few weeks time.

Children clearly enjoy imaginative and creative play. They delight as they create and organise their own stage show entitled 'Hey Mickey' for their friends, parents and staff. Staff members support children to organise their show by re-arranging furniture and using the props available. Consequently, children learn new techniques and develop new skills as they, for example, willingly instigate who will play the different roles for the show and the story line. They negotiate, take the lead and take turns with their friends.

Staff members encourage children to listen with great interest as the show is staged, learning to be a good audience. Staff talk to the children and ask questions to review and talk about their favourite parts of the show. They are highly motivated in their learning as the staff praise the children. For example, staff gave a child good praise when they mixed paints really well to make a beautiful colourful collage and wash up after themselves. As a result, children are happy and interested in their activities.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

The setting is welcoming to children, where they have good opportunities to socialise with others in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. The setting promotes Westminster local authority's promise to children and young people. This is an eight point promise to children and young people which outlines how the local authority is going to deliver their promise. Children are able to feed back through the school council or talking to adults who work with them. Subsequently, children can confidently give suggestions and ideas on how their needs are being met. As a result, they develop positive self esteem and competence in voicing their preferences and views.

Children enjoy mutually respectful relationships with staff and each other. Younger and older children get along well together and enjoy each others company. Staff members are aware of ensuring younger children are able to participate in all activities. They are given reassurance and support when needed, thus ensuring that they feel happy and settled. Staff members show respect to the children and this positively influences children's behaviour. Appropriate and positive strategies are used to manage any behavioural difficulties that may arise. Consequently, children behave well, they understand the boundaries that are set and know what is expected of them. Children are learning right from wrong. They help to devise the rules for the club. A positive display of 'a tree of rewards' shows named children thanked for specific aspects of helping out and of good conduct.

Children learn about the world in which we live through different activities. They are encouraged to participate in all the activities provided. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are welcome in the setting and staff members have a positive attitude towards this area of childcare.

Parents are greeted warmly by staff and have the opportunity to share any relevant information with them on a daily basis to ensure the needs of their children are met. Parents receive satisfactory information about the setting and activities. They are invited once a term to attend an activity planning meeting. Consequently parents are actively involved in what activities are planned for children.

Information about each child is gained through parents completing a registration form with all appropriate details. This helps to ensure that children receive continuity of care. Some information about the setting is available for parents to ensure that they are aware of the policies and procedures in place. However, the setting has not yet implemented a complaints log, recording any complaints that are made in relation to the National Standards for children's safety and wellbeing.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable, confident and at ease in the relaxed atmosphere. They are happy and motivated as they take part in organised activities.

Children benefit from a staff team that works well together to deliver a fun experience for them. However, 50% of the staff do not have a recognised early year's qualification as required by regulation. Staff members have good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They

support the children's play and ensure their safety. The manager supports staff through daily communication and regular meetings.

Most of the required documentation is in place to support children's health, safety and wellbeing. However, the certificate of registration is not displayed. This is a breach of conditions of registration and could compromise children's welfare. Additionally, the provider has not ensured that all records and documentation on staff is kept on site for inspection by the Early Years Child Care Inspector as required by regulation.

Recruitment and vetting procedures are in place, thus ensuring that children are protected and cared for by suitable staff. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration, there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- implement a complaints log for the recording of any complaints made by parents relating to the National Standards
- develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a appropriate and suitable qualification in childcare
- develop routines for hand washing at meal times to promote good hygiene
- continue to improve fire safety, ensure all children have equal chances to learn to cope in the event of an emergency evacuation
- Ensure all records and documentation is kept on site for inspection by the Early Years Child Care Inspector (Standard 14.2)

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