

Broadfields Community Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160971
Inspection date	26 July 2007
Inspector	Kay Williams
Setting Address	Edgware Scout Hall, Rectory Lane, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 7LG
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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 and has been in operation since 1978. It operates from a scout hall situated in Edgware which is located within the London borough of Barnet. A maximum of 25 children age between five and eight years may attend at any one time. The play scheme is open for the first four weeks of the school summer holidays, Monday to Friday from 09:00 until 16:00. All children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 20 children aged five to eight years on roll. A number of older children also attend the setting. Children come from a wide catchment area. The play scheme currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The play scheme employs seven members of staff. Of these, four hold an appropriate qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and wellbeing is generally well promoted. They are learning about the importance of good personal hygiene as they wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The use of liquid soap and paper towels reduces the risk of cross infection. The risk of cross infection is further reduced as children who are ill are not permitted to attend the setting until they are fully recovered. Effective procedures mean that medication is appropriately administered and several staff hold a current first aid qualification.

Children are offered a mid morning snack of squash and a biscuit, however, this is not an especially healthy choice of food. Children provide their own lunch which they eat according to parental wishes. Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day and are able to help themselves to a drink from the cooler at any time.

Children enjoy robust physical play where they learn to strengthen and develop their muscles. They are able to choose to play in or out doors throughout the day and clearly enjoy vigorous sports such as football and skipping.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in a reasonably clean environment. The hall is bright and spacious and as children are free to play in or outdoors, the sense of space is enhanced. Children are greeted warmly by staff who are pleased to see them and their sense of belonging is strengthened as their name is written up onto the white board as soon as they arrive. Art work is prominently displayed and staff have worked hard to create a child centred environment where children are free to choose where they play. They enjoy using a good range of resources which are clean and well maintained.

Children's safety is given good priority overall. Children are well supervised both inside and out. Effective procedures have been developed to assure children's safety on outings. A risk assessment of the venue is carried out before the visit, parent's give written consent for children to use public transport, children's records are taken on the trip and all children wear a badge detailing the play schemes mobile telephone number. Children practise fire evacuations regularly and potential hazardous areas such as the kitchen are secured by a safety gate. However, the main gate has a sizable gap underneath it and this poses a potential threat to children's safety.

Children are safeguarded as staff have sound knowledge of child protection procedures. They know how to respond appropriately and some staff have attended additional child protection training. All visitors to the premises are monitored by the use of a visitors record.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time spent at the play scheme. They have fun as they engage in a wide range of activities. The daily routine flows smoothly and they benefit from a good balance of free play, team games and outings. They respond well to staff and have formed positive

relationships with them, clearly enjoying their company. Many children have been attending the scheme for several years and say that they 'really like it here'.

Children play co-operatively with their peers. They organise a football match and divided themselves into teams, naming their teams the 'Thrashers' and the 'Invincibles'. They play with good humour as a member of staff keeps a record of the score. At snack time children talk with enthusiasm about their bowling trip which is organised for tomorrow. They discuss the journey and suggest the best bus route to take. They reflect on a recent trip to the cinema where they watched the 'The Simpsons Movie' which they describe as 'wicked'. Younger children enjoy dressing up and extend their own play by setting up their own picnic in the garden. There are numerous art activities for the children to have fun with. They take pride in their work, carrying their finished lantern out into the garden to show their friends.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well behaved. They respect the 'behaviour rules' of the setting which they have helped to develop. The policy is written in bold and is displayed on the wall for all to refer to. Effective systems have been established to encourage children to take turns and share fairly. For example children who wish to use the popular play station games must put their names on the list and wait their turn. The atmosphere in the setting is relaxed and happy and the children are confident individuals.

Children benefit from the positive partnerships that the staff have established with the parents. Relationships are friendly and informal, and parents are given useful information about the setting. Most of the relevant consent forms are completed with the exception of the consent for children to receive emergency medical treatment.

Children are learning about their own culture and those of others. The current theme about festivals lends itself well to this. Children are learning about Chinese New Year, Divali, Christmas and Hanukkah and enjoy making decorations such as lanterns, candles and snowmen which they use to decorate the hall.

Children with learning difficulties are well supported in the play scheme. The effective inclusion policy and one to one support workers mean that all children are able to participate in all activities.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The registered person who is also the manager is operating in breach of the settings requirements of registration. The setting is registered to care for children from five years of age. Children age four years are currently attending. In spite of this breach of registration being an issue at the two previous inspections the manager felt that because the children are nearly five then this would be acceptable, but acknowledges her error of judgement. The manager is due to retire and will appoint her deputy as full time manger for the next year in order to ensure that a more qualified, knowledgeable person takes overall responsibility for the day to day running of the setting.

The space is well organised and children centred. Ratios are appropriately maintained. The enthusiastic staff team work well together and are proactive in attending training in order to

improve their skills and knowledge. All relevant checks have been carried out on the staff. Documentation is reasonably well organised. Registers of attendance are accurate and up-to-date and children's personal details are easily accessible. However, the manger was unable to locate the certificate of registration.

The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the quality and standards of care was judged as inadequate.

At that time the setting agreed to adhere to the requirements of registration and improve children's safety on outings. The setting continues to breach its requirements of registration as it is providing care for children under the age of five. However, the children now benefit from improved safety measures on outings and no longer travel in private vehicles.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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

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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 that the conditions of registration are adhered to at all times
- display the certificate of registration at all times

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 *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk