Fredericks Adventure Playground
Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number: 107573
Inspection date: 09 August 2007
Inspector: Mauvene Burke

Setting Address: Westcott Road, London, SE17 3QY
Telephone number: 020 7587 3840
E-mail: London Borough of Southwark
Registered person: Childcare
Type of inspection: Out of School care

This inspection was carried out under the provisions of Part XA of the Children Act 1989, as inserted by the Care Standards Act 2000
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?

Frederick’s Adventure Playground was registered in 1992. It is situated on the Doddington Grove Estate in Kennington. The premises consist of an enclosed playground, an indoor playroom, a small office and toilet facilities.

Frederick’s serves the local and surrounding communities. There are currently over 100 children on roll ranging from five to 11 years old, of these 40 are aged five to eight years old.

The out of school care facility is for 36 children between five and eight years old. It operates Monday to Thursday, 15.30 to 19.30 term times only and Monday to Friday, 10.30 to 18.00 during the school holidays. The playground also operates on Saturday mornings.

There is four full time staff working with the children, including the manager. The manager has NVQ Level 3 in Play Work, Certificate in Management Studies (CMS) and also completed a Quality in Play Mentoring Course. The deputy has NVQ Level 3 in Play work and Early Years Care & Education. The other staff are working towards a Level 3 qualification. There are additional specialist sessional sports tutors.

The adventure playground was voted "Playground of the Year" in 2006.
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children’s health within this setting is supported well by staff who have a secure knowledge of the club’s health and hygiene procedures. Children know that washing their hands after using the toilet and before eating helps prevent the spread of germs. Individual paper hand towel and liquid soap is provided to help reduce the risk of cross-infection. All staff have a secure understanding and knowledge of first aid as the manager has ensured that they have a current first aid certificate and that there is always at least two trained workers on site at all times. This ensures that children receive fast and appropriate medical treatment in the event of them having an accident. Appropriate measures are taken if medication has to be administered to children when on camping or other over-night trips.

Children benefit from healthy eating options when they attend camping trips as staff ensure that meals are nutritious and well-balanced. Cooking activities at the club also helps to promote healthy eating such as when children prepare fresh fruit salads. No cooked meals or snacks are prepared on the premises, therefore children have the freedom of bringing in their own foods; however, these are not always an healthy options, for example pop-corn.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which also contribute to their good health. Each day, there are outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example as the run up and down on the sloping ramps, play football and touch ball and when swinging on the rope swings. They are aware of the way activity affects their bodies and know when they need a drink or a rest.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enter the setting happily and quickly settle into activities of their own choosing. They greet their friends and staff and have a sense of belonging as they wander around their environment. Photographs of trips which some of the children have been on decorate the walls as do displays of the children’s work. Although the premises is in need of some decoration, it is clean and tidy throughout. Equipment available to the children is checked daily to ensure they are safe for use by the children. Although the space is small, staff have maximised the space well so children are able to use it to its full capacity.

Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff are extremely vigilant and use thorough and comprehensive risk assessment to reduce potential hazards. This means that children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. However, the registered person has not ensured that there is adequate fire detection on the premises, for example, the smoke alarm which has broken has not been replaced. Further to this, the manager was unable to say whether or not the fire control equipment, for example the extinguishers, are in good working order. This compromises children’s overall safety in the event of a fire.

Children’s welfare is safeguarded because staff have a clear understanding of child protection policies. Nonetheless, the policy does not include the procedures to follow if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff although the manager was able to demonstrate a good awareness of the procedures he would be expected to follow.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the adventure playground which provides a welcoming and fun environment. All children arrive happily and are eager to participate in the daily activities either alone or with a group of their friends, the choice is theirs. There is a very good range of well-maintained resources which are used well to interest children and staff provide worthwhile activities for children which helps children develop skills in all areas and keep them occupied for long periods of time. For example, they participate in team games such as football and pool; the older children help the younger children to develop their skills in these games by making suggestions as to how they can get a “better” shot. Children enjoy using the fixed structures in the outside play area where they can develop their competitive side as well as their physical skills. As well as these on-site activities, staff organise well planned trips to the Forest of Dean where children have the opportunity to ride a horse, canoe and ride mountain bikes.

Staff allow children to take the lead in all areas and will only assist if children request their help. Children and staff have an excellent relationship and have a mutual respect towards each other. Boys and girls are involved in activities right across the board, so for example, girls are members of the football team and boys are kept occupied for long periods of time colouring in pictures and take pride in the end result, showing off their handiwork to staff. Children learn about their local community and the wider world through well planned trips, for example, to football stadiums such as Wembley and the Arsenal football ground as well as to museums and to the seaside. The programme is full and children enthusiastically ask staff when the next trip is, as they are eager to attend. Staff know each child very well and ensure they all enjoy themselves enormously and achieve as much as they possibly can according to their individual stages of development.

**Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. They develop self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and make choices and decisions. Children develop very positive attitudes and a balanced view of the world as they enjoy interesting topics about different countries such as Australia and visits to Paris. There is a detailed equal opportunities statement which reflects practice and staff are committed to ensuring all children are included and their individual needs are met.

Children are very well behaved. They know what is expected of them and demonstrate a good understanding of the clubs “Condition of Use”, the club do not use the term “rules”. Although there is no behaviour management statement in place, staff are extremely consistent in the way in which they manage children's behaviour. Children say that the staff treat them fairly and will only become involved in a dispute if they themselves are unable to resolve it on their own.

Parents have access to the programme of activities which the club offers and relationships with the staff are friendly. Parents are encouraged to make suggestions about ways to improve the club and parents spoken to, speak very highly of the club. However, the club do not make relevant policies and procedures available to parents and although there is a complaints procedure in place, not all parents are aware of how to make a complaint, if they had one.
**Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children play in a splendid and smoothly run setting. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. They are cared for by suitable, enthusiastic and sensitive staff who clearly delight in working with children and who are committed to providing children with well worth activities and adventures. They undertake additional training to enhance the experiences of the children in their care and have all been suitably vetted to ensure they are suitable to be in the proximity of the children. In addition to this, they are effectively inducted. Resources are organised flexibly and creatively so that children can choose different activities to extend their play and develop their own ideas.

Most policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children, but not all are shared with parents. The child protection statement needs up-dating to ensure that children’s welfare is continually safeguarded. Children are kept safe in this environment because staff follow rigorous risk assessments however, they could be at risk because fire detection appliances have not been suitably checked.

Records and documents are kept readily available at all times and stored appropriately, so that confidentiality is maintained.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

**Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to make the following improvements. They were asked to ensure that parents consent to the administration of emergency treatment and advice, include in their documentation a sick child and behaviour management policy and to improve the state of the decoration of the premises.

Satisfactory progress has been made. Parents consent is now sought at the start of each placement giving the provider permission to seek emergency treatment and advice. This ensures that children’s welfare is promoted if they become ill whilst at the setting. The club has a policy in place with regards to the exclusion of sick children, but this is told to parents verbally; although no behaviour management statement was seen, staff implement an effective and consistent approach to the management of children’s behaviour. The premises is in need of some decoration but the club are awaiting the outcome of a bid they have put in to have a new portacabin fitted on site.

**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.

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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 further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

• ensure that fire detection and control equipment are in good working order and readily available
• up-date the child protection statement in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board and make sure it includes the procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff
• ensure that policies and procedures are available to parents and that they are aware of the complaints procedure.

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

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