

# Cross Keys Activities

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 147522  
**Inspection date** 19 February 2008  
**Inspector** Liz Corr

**Setting Address** Christ College School, East End Road, East Finchley, London, N2 0SE

**Telephone number** 020 8371 9686  
**E-mail** richard@xkeys.co.uk  
**Registered person** X Keys Ltd  
**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](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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Cross Keys was registered in 1997 and is an established Holiday Play scheme. It is managed by X Keys Limited which runs other holiday provision across the country. The holiday scheme operates from Christ's College Secondary School, which is located between East Finchley and Finchley Central in the London borough of Barnet.

Children access the dining hall, drama room, art room, music room, sports hall and gym. They also access the tennis courts, play grounds and sports fields. The setting is registered to care for a maximum of 136 children from four to eight years. There are currently 37 children on roll including, children aged between eight and 13 years.

They open during school holidays at Easter, half terms, summer holidays and occasionally during the Christmas break, with sessions running from 09:30 - 16:30. Children choose from three specialist activities, sports, drama and art. Children aged between four and five years join the apprentices group where a range of activities are provided.

There are ten members of staff employed, with seven holding appropriate child care qualifications and others holding a variety of sports, drama and art qualifications.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children's health is supported by the effective practises carried out by the staff team. They develop a good awareness of the importance of personal hygiene as they follow established routines for regular hand washing. Children are escorted safely to the toilet facilities to wash their hands before and after eating. Washing facilities are clean and hygienic, however, younger children are unable to easily access the soap dispensers and children share hand towels, which increases the risk of cross infection.

Children's health is safeguarded by the good measures in place for recording their individual health needs. A clear sickness procedure is shared with parents which means that staff are aware of and support children's individual health conditions. Accidents and administration of medications are efficiently recorded and an appropriate number of staff are first aid trained.

Children enjoy sociable snack and lunch sessions where they sit and chat together. Parents provide packed lunches and staff follow efficient systems to ensure that they are informed of any special dietary needs. Parents are provided with clear information about how packed lunches are stored on the premises and suggestions given for healthy meals. Staff pay particular attention to ensuring that children do not have access to any foods containing nuts. Children eating healthy snacks and lunches are praised. However, some lunch packs contain cakes and chocolate, which do not fully promote children's health.

There are good opportunities for children to enjoy fresh air and engage in energetic games and sports. One group at the setting is dedicated to sports activities and have access to specialist sports coaches. Physical play is available for all children at the setting both indoors and out. They enthusiastically participate in parachute games, grandma's footsteps, football games, movement and dance. Children playing football have a half time water break. They are encouraged to drink water as staff explain that professional footballers drink regularly to hydrate themselves. However, children in other groups are not able to freely access drinking water as and when they need it.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and spacious indoor and outdoor environment. Staff carry out regular risk assessments during the day, which means that children are kept safe. Good procedures ensure that visitors gain access to the building only under staff supervision.

Children benefit from the staff's commitment to prioritise their safety. Clear and comprehensive policies are in place and are shared with parents. Each child is individually registered in their chosen group therefore, staff know at all times which children are in their care. Vigilant procedures at snack time staff ensure that children's lunches are nut free.

Children are learning how to keep themselves safe as they regularly practise the emergency evacuation procedure. They are calmly escorted to a safe registration point by staff who, explain an evacuation practice has just taken place. They are praised for their good behaviour throughout. The use of two way radios promotes children's safety as it enables staff to

communicate to management and colleagues effectively in case of emergencies and ensuring that their colleagues know when they are moving to different areas of the building.

The overall safety of children is positively protected because staff are well informed about their role in safeguarding children's welfare. Staff are familiar with the process for reporting child protection concerns and clear procedures are in place for dealing with allegations made against staff.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled at the setting. They are forming good relationships with the staff team who provide positive attention, which helps children feel secure. Younger children enjoy making masks and princess tiaras, they are proud of their achievements as they show their friends and staff. They are well supported by staff who are attentive and caring. Their days are well planned and include good opportunities for physical play. As they play a parachute game, staff engage their interest as they carefully explain the rules and include each child.

Older children are happily engaged in their chosen activities. During a football game, staff are fully involved and offer praise and encouragement. They benefit from specialist activities where they learn useful skills taught by visiting teachers, including judo. Children involved in the art group become immersed in interesting creative activities, such as making Chinese lanterns. Activities are well planned in advance so children have time to fully develop their art work and make choices. They receive good support from staff who balance their time with fun outdoor games. They energetically participate in a game of grandma's footsteps and chat to the staff as they go back inside about how much they enjoyed this. Children taking part in drama activities fully participate in rehearsals for their play, which will be performed on the last day of the scheme. Staff know most of the children well as they have attended previous schemes. Children are well organised as they practise their roles, which include group singing and dancing sessions for their Robin Hood production. Careful planning ensures that all children are included. They are encouraged to make suggestions and confidently share their ideas with staff. Consequently children develop independence and good self-esteem.

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

The provision is good.

Children are learning about the values and traditions of the wider world as they take part in art activities. One member of staff shares their experience of travel to other countries to generate creative ideas. The setting strives to create a balance of male and female staff. Experienced female staff are involved in sports activities which create a positive role model for children. Staff are aware of the children's individual health needs as these are well recorded, however, systems for recording information about their individual family backgrounds, such as their religion or cultural beliefs, are not as secure.

Children are fully engaged in activities. They are valued as staff help the children to feel good about themselves by frequently providing positive support, praise and encouragement, while managing behaviour very well. Consequently children are happy and well behaved. Children benefit from the efficient procedures in place to address and support any learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Parents are well informed about the service and can access information in a variety of ways. The setting has a website and policies and procedures are available at the setting. Staff are available to discuss children's progress and queries on a day-to-day basis. Regular feedback is requested by staff through parental questionnaires. These are documented and taken into account when planning future schemes. A clear complaints policy is available with details of the regulator.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised setting. They enjoy their time there and take part in a full program of activities. Staff are well deployed at the setting, so children receive good adult attention and support. A relaxed and fun environment is provided so children are able to enjoy and achieve.

Effective recruitment and vetting procedures ensure staff are suitable to work with children and hold appropriate qualifications. Careful risk assessments are carried out as staff prioritise their safety. Clear policies and procedures help staff to promote children's health. Good records are kept to support any individual health conditions. However, hygiene procedures for hand washing and drying are not fully developed.

A full range of policies and procedures are available to support the smooth running of the setting and are made available to parents. Well organised records are in place for each child, which help staff to meet their individual needs. Accurate attendance records are kept to promote children's safety. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection two recommendations were raised. The first was to complete a risk assessment of the hot water used for hand washing. Some taps have been regulated to control the temperature and others have warning signs so children are made aware not to use these taps. The setting was also required to develop an action plan for developing staff training and qualification requirements. Management have ensured that over fifty per cent of staff are appropriately qualified at each scheme. The actions taken by the provider has improved the safety and welfare of the children at the setting.

### **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

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):

- improve hygiene for hand washing and hand drying facilities
- improve systems for recording children's family backgrounds

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)