

Fircroft School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY233782
Inspection date	20 February 2008
Inspector	Patricia Jane Daniels
Setting Address	Fircroft Road, Wandsworth, SW17 7PR
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Registered person	Wandsworth Borough Council
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?

Fircroft Playcentre was first registered in 2001. It is one of a group of holiday play schemes provided by Wandsworth Borough Council Play Services. It operates from Fircroft School, in Fircroft Road, Wandsworth, South London. The premises are in easy reach of local buses and underground station.

The playscheme is registered to care for 150 children aged from three years to under eight years. Children aged up to 14 years also attend the scheme. The scheme is open from 09:00 - 17:15 daily during school holidays. Extra care from 08:00 - 18:00 is available at an additional charge. The group has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The group is staffed according to the number of children attending. There are a variable number of children on roll. The person in charge has a level three qualification and at least half the staff are qualified, in line with requirements.

At the time of this inspection there were no children present.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The manager demonstrates a clear understanding of how children's good health is promoted. There are systems in place to gather information from parents regarding medical needs, dietary requirements and allergies. Children learn about their personal hygiene through their normal daily routines, such as hand washing before lunch. A suitable policy is in place to exclude children with contagious illnesses, so that it is not spread to others. Systems are in place for obtaining written parental consent to administer medication and seek emergency treatment, in line with parents' wishes. Children would be free to play outdoors whenever they choose, so that they could enjoy the benefits of fresh air and exercise.

Parents would supply lunches and they are advised about providing suitable contents, so that food does not spoil when stored. Any foods given by the group during the extra care period would be recorded, in case allergies develop later. Jugs of water and cups would be provided at all times, for children to help themselves.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The areas that would be used are the main hall and four other classrooms. Each room would have designated activities, such as table top toys or a quiet area. The premises would be made welcoming with displays of toys and activities for the children's selection. Toys and equipment are in good condition and regularly updated.

The premises are secure, with locked gates and a buzzer entry system to prevent unwanted visitors gaining entry. A risk assessment of the premises would be undertaken and any potential hazards made safe. Staff are provided with 'walkie-talkie' systems, so that they can remain in contact with others. A safe collection procedure would be followed when parents come to collect their children. Children would learn about safety rules within the setting and they would practise regular fire drills.

All staff receive training about their role in safeguarding children. This promotes their understanding of the symptoms of abuse and the procedures to take, if they have concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

A variety of activities would be provided to offer children choices about how to spend their time. These are planned to offer variety and adapted to ensure that all children can participate. The choices would include opportunities for children to be creative through art and craft activities. Other opportunities would include imaginative play with small world toys. Children would be encouraged to develop friendships and socialise with others through the 'team time' activities and 'getting to know you' games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Planned activities indicate children would have activities and resources that promote their understanding of the diversity within our society. The activities would reflect the cultures of the children attending and provide opportunities to learn about different cultures.

Children's opinions would be valued because staff ask them about the service provided. Younger children aged under five years would be grouped together, so that their needs could be more easily met.

The play scheme has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and it has systems in place to offer appropriate support.

Staff would make children aware of group rules for behaviour and would endorse good behaviour with praise. Unwanted behaviour would be diverted whenever possible and warnings issued, if needed, so that children understand the consequences. Staff would treat children with respect and be positive role models for behaviour.

Systems are in place to seek parents' views about the service provided and any suggestions they might have for improvements. Parents would be provided with a brochure about the service and a notice board with displays of general information and daily activities. Policies would be available for parents to view at any time.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All required checks on staff are made, indicating their suitability. New staff have an induction programme that covers the provision's policies and procedures. An appraisal system is in place to ensure ongoing suitability of staff. Evidence indicates that resources are organised appropriately. A contingency plan is in place to cover unexpected staff absences. However, it does not outline how staff cover would be provided if the trained first aider is unexpectedly absent.

Mandatory records are in place and regulatory requirements met. Overall, evidence suggests that the provision meets the needs of the range of the 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):

- put contingency plans in place to ensure that a trained first aider is always present

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