

Gautby Road Play & Community Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	306390
Inspection date	23 August 2007
Inspector	Margaret Patricia Mellor
Setting Address	Gautby Road, Bidston, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 7DS
Telephone number	0151 652 5645
E-mail	
Registered person	Wirral Dept of Education and Cultural Services
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Gautby Road Play and Community Centre was registered in 2001. It is one of six settings run by Wirral Education and Cultural Services. It is based in the play and community centre in Bidston, Wirral. Children use the coffee bar, art room, sports hall, sensory room and computer suite for their activities. There is secure, fully enclosed outside play area. It is an open access play scheme and primarily serves children living in and around the local community.

The setting is registered to provide care for a maximum of 52 children aged from five to under eight years at any one time. It is open in the evening during school terms on Tuesday to Friday from 15.30 to 17.15 and 18.00 to 19.45, and on Saturday from 10.00 to 12.30 and 14.00 to 16.00. During the holidays the play scheme runs Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 12.30 and 14.00 pm to 16.30. There are 61 children on roll aged from five to 14 years, of these 25 children are aged under eight years. It supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

The setting employs three staff to work with the children. Two staff have a relevant qualification in either child care or playwork. A pool of named volunteers support with activities on a regular basis. A janitor is employed for cleaning the premises. They receive support from Wirral Borough Council. They are a member of '4 Children'.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle is promoted generally well. They go home for lunch, contributing to their dietary needs. Staff are keen to share healthy eating ideas with the children through practical activities, for instance making fruit smoothies and pizza with vegetable toppings. However, snacks in the tuck shop are less wholesome and nutritious. Children learn to listen to their bodies as they independently help themselves to drinks of water when thirsty or after exercise. They are able to be active or restful, according to their respective needs.

Children love to be active and negotiate space well. They show good physical control during group games as they throw, catch and pass balls. Their coordination and spatial awareness skills are further enhanced when exploring rhythm to music or climbing and balancing on the fixed play equipment. Staff encourage children's cooperation and participation through good use of group games and resources, in particular the parachute. Children relish making models with recyclable material and threading beads to make necklaces. They skilfully manoeuvre the controls whilst playing on the programmable resources, consolidating their fine motor skills through fun, play and learning experiences.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean and comfortable environment, which meets their needs very well. Staff have a good understanding of health care issues, for instance, wiping down surfaces. They actively encourage children to use sun creams, wear hats and have plenty of drinks on hot days. Children reinforce their understanding of personal hygiene through discussions with staff and planned visits from dental health. They talk confidently about how washing hands and brushing their teeth helps to get rid of bacteria.

Children's health is safeguarded well. Their individual dietary needs are very clearly communicated, therefore parents' wishes are respected and children remain healthy. Two staff have a relevant first aid certificate and keep the first aid box fully stocked so that children's minor injuries are dealt with effectively. All accidents are risk assessed, helping to minimise the risk of children injuring themselves in the future. Staff follow effective procedures for the safe storage of children's self-medication. They act in children's best interests, which is well supported by the detailed sick child policy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move freely and with confidence in the club as there are good safety arrangements in place. Staff vigilantly monitor access to the premises, which is well supported by visitors records, and children's signing in and out procedures. All the necessary safety equipment is in place and procedures for checking the fire equipment and portable appliances. Staff carry out a daily visual risk assessment of the premises and take note of hazards to effectively address any areas of concern. They follow appropriate health and safety procedures for checking the toys so children remain safe. There are effective and well thought out procedures for keeping children safe and well whilst enjoying outings.

Children play with a broad range of toys and equipment that are suitable for their age and stimulate enjoyment. The children's play areas are spacious and creatively organised by staff, providing interesting areas of play for children to freely and safely access. Children have plenty

of fun as they self-select toys and often encourage others to join in with them. They enjoy a variety of safe challenges on the fixed play equipment and portable resources in the secure, enclosed outdoor play areas. Rest and relaxation areas enable children to sit together in comfort and promotes their independence.

Children learn aspects of personal safety as they regularly practise what to do in the event of a fire. They consolidate their understanding of how to keep themselves safe through discussions with staff and workshops run by the fire officer or police. Children's well-being is further safeguarded because there are effective procedures for the collection of children in an emergency. Staff are very knowledgeable about child protection issues and have a copy of the government leaflet 'What to do if you are worried about a child'. They demonstrate a strong understanding of the local procedure to follow should they wish to report a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the club and staff provide a stimulating, fun environment for them. They are happy to see their friends as they form into small groups, engage in creative play and chat about what they are doing. Children talk fondly about their family, friends and what they do at the weekend. They have a positive relationship with staff who spend time talking, listening and playing with the children. They are confident to ask questions through the children's council and secure to voice their opinions on how they perceive the activities can be improved, for instance, ferry rides. Staff take note of these and discuss the possibility of addressing this in the future. This enhances children's self-esteem and confidence to make their needs known to the adults.

Children have plenty of fun and gain confidence as they take part in well organised activities, which actively engage their interests. This is supported by the planning systems implemented by staff, who use information from the children to plan activities. Children eagerly join in creative play and are encouraged to freely express their own ideas and feelings through art and craft. They relish free painting and making leather key rings, fridge magnets, friendship bracelets and models out of recyclable materials. Children have a strong sense of belonging and are proud of their achievements, which they eagerly share with others. They talk excitedly about the super heroes they design and finger puppets they make with lots of glitter. Children happily display their art work in the club, fostering a welcoming environment for themselves and their parents.

Children have a good understanding of how to keep themselves healthy and safe and how to behave. They are involved in their play and make decisions, choosing whether to have a game of pool, draw with crayons, relax on comfy cushions with a book or sit at the table together to make a model with mod rock. They explore using their senses, for instance, tasting fruit smoothies and listening to music or looking at the creative lighting in the sensory room. Children respond with gusto as they talk about going to the theatre, ferry rides and days trips, such as the farm when they feed the goats, further enhancing their play scheme experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident in the club because they choose to come. They develop good levels of self-esteem and staff form close and caring relationships with children. The effective

equal opportunities and inclusion policy ensures that all children are valued as individuals. Activities are non-gender specific and children make choices about playing inside or out, promoting a strong sense of belonging. Children enjoy celebrating special events in their own lives and develop some positive attitude towards others. They eagerly join in African drum workshops and celebrate cultural events, such as Chinese New Year when they do creative writing. Resources reflecting positive images and multi-cultural toys are not broadly incorporated into the range of play materials. Therefore, children's understanding of equality issues is not fully explored.

Children's needs are met well because warm and friendly relationships have been established between the staff and parents. Staff work closely with parents to ensure that they understand children's individual needs. Parents are warmly greeted as they come into the setting and engage in easy conversation with staff about their children's interests. They comment very positively about their children's play experiences and the warm relationships they enjoy with staff. They are given a leaflet about the club as part of the enrolment procedures, reassuring parents that children's interests come first. Parents are welcome to stay and sometimes support with day trips or creative activities, contributing to the quality of care offered.

Children's sense of belonging is promoted well as they happily self-select activities, which help to make the environment relaxed, bright and attractive to them. Staff manage children's behaviour well, providing a very positive environment where children are encouraged to feel good about themselves. They are good role models encouraging polite interaction. They use plenty of praise to acknowledge what children have done well. Children are developing good social skills because staff have invited them to contribute to the club ground rules and acceptable behaviours. This means that children have a clear understanding of what is expected of them. Children share resources well and understand the need to set times on specific activities, such as the games console. They are supportive of one another and offer buddy support to newcomers to the club. Children are well occupied and involved in their play, resulting in them behaving very well.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children enjoy play in a safe and secure environment. Their well-being is safeguarded because there are rigorous recruitment procedures for adults who work with the children. Staff are well informed of their responsibilities in a formal induction procedure, which works well in practice. There is written confirmation that staff are appropriately vetted and suitable to work with the children. There are policies covering all aspects of activities and procedures so that non-vetted persons are not left unattended with children. Staff have accessed training, such as first aid, further assisting them in providing a good service for the children. All the necessary regulatory daily documentation is maintained well, stored with regard for confidentiality and made available for inspection.

Children are afforded good adult support and the experience of qualified staff who provide a welcoming and fun environment. Staffing ratios provide appropriate levels of individual and group support for children, helping to meet all their needs. Staff work well together and this is reflected in the children's happiness, confidence and strong sense of belonging. They are enthusiastic about their own self-development through taking part in share skills days with other play schemes. Children engage in stimulating activities, which are enhanced by staff's understanding of play. They are assisted to develop their independence and create friendships because staff have organised activities to meet the children's needs. Children are confidently

making choices and pursuing activities that appeal to them. Regular meetings help staff to share ideas, contributing to the quality of care offered.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection two recommendations were raised to meet the National Standards and improve the quality of care. These referred to safety and organisation. They have introduced a policy regarding the use of CCTV and taken steps to meet staff qualification requirements. Therefore, improving the quality of care offered.

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 complaint 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 children's access to healthy snack options
- continue to build upon the range of children's resources that promote equality issues.

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