

Cape Play & Youth Project

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY229668
Inspection date	16 October 2007
Inspector	Maggie Thorp
Setting Address	85 Crouch Hill, London, N8 9EG
Telephone number	020 7272 4243
E-mail	
Registered person	Islington Young People's 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 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?

Cape Play and Youth Project was registered in 2002. It operates from self contained premises in Crouch Hill in the London Borough of Islington.

There are currently approximately 30 children from five to eight years on roll for the after school club and 50 for the holiday play scheme. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Children over eight years also attend.

The group opens five days a week Tuesday to Saturday for 48 weeks in the year. Sessions are from 16:00 hours until 18:45 after school and 10:00 until 17:30 for the holiday play schemes.

Including the manager, there are three members of staff working with the children in the after school sessions, four on Saturdays and six or more in the school holidays. Of these the manger has an appropriate qualification, two staff are working towards appropriate qualifications, others are not qualified. The provision is run by and receives advice and support from Islington local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from healthy exercise and good food hygiene. However, children's health is not fully promoted and protected at the project.

Children enjoy the many opportunities for exercise and lively games especially outdoors. Children climb, swing and play imaginative games on the challenging adventure playground equipment. They list the access they have to the project's bicycles and a favourite activity and children also learn how to maintain these. They play football and other ball games in the area especially provided for this.

Children can use the toilets in privacy and have soap and hand towels which encourage good hygiene. The kitchen is clean and well organised as is the fridge and the utensils used to prepare and serve food. Those cooking have food hygiene certificates. Children's dietary needs are noted and they are offered healthy lunches during the holiday play schemes. Children talk with enthusiasm about this.

However, the floors and paintwork of the toilets and all the rooms and staircases children use are dirty. The management have contracted out the cleaning of the premises but poor standards are not effectively challenged to ensure that children have a clean environment in which to play. Children drink directly from a tap in the toilets if they are thirsty, no water dispenser or cups are provided, this is not hygienic.

Children's well being if ill or if they have an accident is not fully safeguarded. There are ample first aid trained staff to ensure there is always at least one such person on duty to help children who are hurt. There are first aid boxes on the premises but not all are fully stocked so that any delay in accessing resources can be avoided. Accidents are recorded and parents sent for or informed by phone depending on the severity of the injury. However, there is no written policy to guide staff on the procedure to follow in regard to excluding children with infections and dealing with accidents. Parents are not asked to provide written consent for their child to receive medical treatment in an emergency to ensure their wishes are respected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children have plenty of space for play in both the indoor and outdoor environments. Areas are clearly defined as those for older and younger children so that younger children can feel secure in their space but this has not been continuously enforced. Children are able to use different parts of the building for different activities. Some play quietly in one room relaxing and chatting on the settee or playing on the computers. In another room there are craft resources, and space for table tennis and other games. Children paint and make clay models in the 'messy art room' and make music in the basement. Children's art work and graffiti make the walls bright and attractive to this age group.

However, the rooms are not clean and storage is not well organised so that children can see what there is to choose from and follow through ideas they have for creative activities. The 'messy art room' has become a bike storage area so children can use it easily. The games and

craft cupboard is untidy and resources are muddled so children are not inspired to try different activities or are able to find everything they need.

Children's safety is not protected effectively because there are no procedures in place to ensure resources and equipment are regularly checked and maintained. Emergency evacuations are practised, the fire alarm system is regularly maintained and but not the fire fighting equipment. Risks are assessed but action is not taken to follow up findings. An example of this is the football surface was identified as a trip hazard but nothing has been done to reduce risk to children there. In addition, children are not safeguarded effectively because of the lack of clear written and well understood child protection statement, this is a regulation. Appropriate ways of recording any concerns and ensuring they are kept confidentially are not in place and staff left in charge in the manager's absence are not clear about reporting suspected child abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy the wide range of activities that are planned and provided in the holiday play schemes. A wide variety of art and craft activities are offered in the holidays, for example, tie dying, paper making and candle making. Children spoke of enjoying cooking and making models with clay. Samples of children's work are around the five to eight room and 'messy' art room.

Children said that they learnt songs and dances and that they performed these to everyone during the holidays. Their musical interest is further encouraged by the recording equipment and instrument available in the basement and steel drum tuition in holiday and term times.

Children enjoy the challenge of outdoor play and go on trips to such places as Woburn Safari Park, Chessington World of Adventure and Alton Towers. They go on nature walks that include bark rubbing and blackberry picking.

During term time children engage in an adequate range of activities but some of these are less well resourced and organised. Specific indoor and outdoor activities are planned, for example, sewing and going on a bug hunt. However, the selection of play and art materials available for children to choose from outside the planned activity are limited.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children enjoy good relationships with staff who listen to their wishes and encourage them to be confident and independent. However, good systems are not in place to ensure all children are valued and encouraged to value those of different backgrounds and abilities because this is not deliberately planned for in all aspects of the provision. Information about the cultures and languages of the children that attend is not monitored in order to ensure these are reflected and respected in the project.

Younger children relate well to each other, but are sometimes discouraged from attending because of the behaviour of some of those in their teens that attend. There is no written statement regarding behaviour or bullying. Children are not encouraged to review and be part of rule setting and the project is not proactive in ensuring children are skilled and confident in reporting and taking a stand against bullying.

Currently there are no children with disabilities or learning difficulties attending. The local authority is used for advice and support. However, there is no written statement to guide staff in supporting any future children to ensure they are included and accepted. Some staff have had training on dealing with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

The partnership with parents is not well established to ensure children are fully safe guarded and parents' wishes are respected. Information is provided for parents about the activities planned for the holiday play schemes, and a general leaflet about the different services offered. Parents' contact details and any medical needs children may have are recorded. However, not all the appropriate consents are sought or information given about how to complain to the regulator. This is a regulation.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are not adequately protected and provided for through the project's poor organisation and lack of sufficient staff with appropriate qualifications. In addition there is no one who has a suitable qualification or who has received sufficient guidance to deputise in the manager's absence. There have been changes in the day to day management of the project and the regulator has not been informed of this. This is a regulation. Insufficient steps have been taken to ensure that regulatory matters are well known and understood by those in charge of the project in order that they can be implemented to children's best interests.

Children do not benefit from the lack of policies and procedures in place to underpin good practice, and documentation does not ensure children are safe guarded. The names, addresses of all adults working with children are not kept on the premises. This is a regulation. Accurate records are not kept of exactly which adults and children are on the premises. This is a regulation. The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection none of the recommendations made have been fully put in place to improve the health and safety of children or to keep parents better informed. The recommendation to devise and implement a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious and to devise an accident procedure and make sure parents are made aware of these has not been followed. The recommendations to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and to devise and implement policies and procedures for the management of children's behaviour have not been done. The risks have been assessed for outings but no written procedures for outings have been made as recommended.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- develop an action plan that sets out how staff training and qualification requirements will be met including having suitably qualified staff to deputise in the manager's absence
- assess the risks to children in relation to regular safety checks not being carried out, the current level of training in health and safety, the lack of policies and procedures, and the system for recording who is on the premises and take action to minimise these
- produce and implement a statement on managing children's behaviour that includes bullying and that all staff are aware of effective ways of managing children's behaviour
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint and includes how to contact the regulator
- ensure that there is a clear child protection procedure that complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and is clearly understood by staff (LSCB)
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant matters including a change in manager
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection 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