

Broadfields Community Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160971
Inspection date	21 August 2008
Inspector	Naomi Brown
Setting Address	Edgware Scout Hall, Rectory Lane, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 7LG
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Registered person	Broadfields Community Playscheme
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?

Broadfields Community Playscheme was registered in 1992 and has been in operation since 1978. It operates from a scout hall situated in Edgware which is located within the London Borough of Barnet. A maximum of 25 children aged between five and eight years may attend at any one time. The play scheme is open during the first four weeks of the school summer holidays, Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 16:00. All children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 24 children aged five to eight years on roll. A number of older children also attend the setting. Children come from a wide catchment area. The play scheme currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The play scheme employs seven members of staff. Of these, five hold an appropriate qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and well-being is well promoted by robust policies and practices. Children learn about the importance of good personal hygiene as they readily wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The setting provides liquid soap and paper towels to reduce the risk of cross-infection. Toilets are checked at intervals throughout the day to ensure that they are continuously suitable for children's use. Children are further protected from cross-infection as children who are ill are not permitted to attend the setting until they are fully recovered. Effective procedures mean that medication is appropriately administered and documented. The staff rota is designed so that there are several staff on the premises at all times who hold a current first aid qualification.

Children are offered healthy snacks throughout the day, including fruit kebabs, vegetable sticks and plain biscuits. Children are offered low sugar squash and water to drink at snack times and have unlimited access to fresh water from the water cooler in the setting throughout the day. Staff remind them to have drinks, especially after physical play. Children bring their own lunch. The setting offers guidelines to parents to ensure that children receive a balanced and nutritious diet.

Children enjoy physical play throughout the day, skipping, playing football and visiting a number of adventure playgrounds and activity centres. This gives them plenty of opportunities to develop their large and small muscle skills. Children can move indoors and outdoors as they wish and staff encourage them to get plenty of fresh air when the weather allows. The large hall offers them space to have physical play even in poor weather and this underpins their good physical health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in a safe and clean environment. The hall is bright and spacious and children can move freely between indoor and outdoor areas. Staff float throughout the setting to ensure that children are well supervised. Children's artwork is prominently displayed throughout minding areas and this helps children to feel welcome in the setting. Children use the space confidently and equipment is displayed appropriately to encourage children to move around the room. Children enjoy using the wide range of resources which are clean and well maintained.

Effective procedures are in place to protect children on outings, for example, staff carry out a risk assessment of the venue before the visit and parental consent is gained if public transport is to be used. All children's records are taken on the trip and children wear a badge detailing the play scheme's mobile telephone number to protect them if they become separated from the group. Children practise fire evacuations weekly to ensure that they can leave the setting swiftly in the case of an emergency. Access to potentially hazardous areas, such as the kitchen, is limited by security gates.

Children are safeguarded as staff have sound knowledge of child protection procedures. Staff are aware of the procedures to report and record concerns and are clear about their duty to do so.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time spent at the play scheme. They benefit from the wide range of activities on offer, including a good balance of outings and play sessions at the premises. Children discuss an outing to a local safari park, laughing as they describe how 'the monkeys got on the car.' Children play cooperatively with each other, playing team games, such as football, and group games including the 'parachute game'. Children laugh with delight as they take turns to run under a parachute being shaken by the group. Children respond well to staff in the setting as staff enthusiastically join in children's play, refereeing team games and asking imaginative questions to increase children's thinking within their play. Staff support children in a range of craft activities and their achievements can be seen clearly displayed throughout the setting. Children have made suitcases in which they placed drawings and models of items they would like to take on holiday. They are able to point out their own work and look forward to taking it home at the end of the play scheme. Children talk about outings they have been on, including bowling and the cinema, expressing their enjoyment of all aspects of the play scheme.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well behaved while they are in the setting. They are aware of and follow rules of the setting which are clearly explained to them. Children demonstrate good levels of self control and are relaxed and happy in the setting. Children are able to learn about different cultures and religions through the good range of resources and activities that show positive images of individual differences. These include dressing up clothes from different cultures and a wide range of reference books. Staff support an inclusive attitude as they show good regard for children's individual needs, recognising that, while all children should be treated equally, they do have different requirements. This helps children to feel secure in the setting and has a demonstrable effect on their high levels of confidence. A presentation setting at the end of the play scheme recognises and praises children's individual strengths and children take pride in their achievements.

Children benefit from the positive partnerships that the staff have established with parents. Relationships are friendly and informal, and parents are given useful information about the setting and encouraged to talk to staff daily about their children. All parental consent forms are completed to protect children.

Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are well supported in the setting. Staff have implemented an effective inclusion policy and children have access to one-to-one support workers. This, as well as accessible premises, ensures that children can take part in all activities should they wish.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The manager is well experienced and has made recent improvements to the organisation of the setting, including requesting a variation to the ages of children that the setting is allowed to care for, to ensure that she consistently meets the conditions of her registration and that all the National Standards are met.

The space is well organised and child-centred, with plenty of accessible resources and examples of children's work. Ratios are appropriately maintained. The enthusiastic staff team work well together and actively seek training in order to improve their skills and knowledge. All relevant checks have been carried out on the staff to ensure that they are continuously suitable to work with children. Documentation is mostly well organised. Registers of attendance are accurate and up-to-date and children's personal details are easily accessible. However, registers do not currently record children's actual times of arrival, although departure times are consistently noted. This compromises the setting's ability to identify who is on the premises in the case of a child protection case or an emergency evacuation. The manager plans to update this as soon as possible. A board in the main reception area allows parents and visitors to view the registration certificate, public liability insurance and information on daily activities to keep them up-to-date and involve them in their children's care. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, actions were set that required the setting to ensure that the conditions of registration are adhered to at all times and to display the certificate of registration at all times. The manager of the setting has sought a variation to the conditions of her registration to enable her to meet the conditions at all times without excluding any children from the setting. She has also created a space on the notice board for parents where the registration certificate is displayed. These improvements underpin the continuing safety of children in 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 existing registration systems to include children's actual times of arrival.

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