

Cape Play & Youth Project

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY229668
Inspection date	30 July 2008
Inspector	Naomi Brown
Setting Address	85 Crouch Hill, London, N8 9EG
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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets 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 36 weeks in the year and from Monday to Friday for 12 weeks of the year during holidays. 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 manager and four other staff have appropriate qualifications, one member of staff is working towards an appropriate qualification. 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 nutritious foods. Children enjoy the many opportunities for exercise and lively games especially outdoors. Children climb, swing and play on playground equipment as well as using the range of indoor physical play equipment available to them, including lively games of table tennis. Children also have access to a range of outings that provide access to different physical activities including canoeing and other water sports. This variety of outdoor pursuits enables children to be enthusiastic about their physical activity.

Children can use the toilets in privacy and have soap and hand towels which encourage independent hygiene routines. Children's dietary needs are noted and they are offered healthy lunches during the holiday play schemes. Children enjoy their food and talk about meals with enthusiasm which promotes their understanding of a nutritious diet.

Rooms are suitably clean for children's use. The setting has undergone a recent health and safety inspection and have acted on all areas highlighted for improvement which benefit's children's health. Staff have an appropriate understanding of protecting children from illness and cross contamination and have implemented procedures that support children's well being if they are ill. Most staff have first aid training and there is consistently at least one such person on duty to help children who are hurt. However, while parents are fully informed of any accidents that befall their children in the setting and sign records as required, not all parents have provided written consent for emergency treatment for their children. This compromises the setting's ability to seek appropriate care in the case of an emergency when parents are unavailable.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have plenty of space for play both indoors and outdoors. Areas are clearly defined for different activities so that children can feel secure in their space. Recent changes to group organisations have promoted these distinctions to the benefit of the safety of those who attend. Children are able to use the building safely and effectively, moving between indoor and outdoor areas safely to take part in group and individual activities, for example, using a range of craft materials including scissors and threading needles with supervision from staff. Children's art work and murals on the walls help to make play areas attractive and welcoming to children.

All equipment is suitable for children's use and is checked before children use it. All large equipment is appropriately fixed in minding areas and children use it with supervision from staff. Emergency evacuations are practised regularly and the fire alarm system is regularly maintained, as is other safety equipment. Risks are assessed and several changes have been made as the result of findings.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as staff are aware of signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and are clear of the procedure to follow to record and report concerns to the appropriate bodies.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to enjoy a wide range of activities that are planned and provided in the holiday play schemes. A wide variety of art and craft activities are offered including paper making, cross stitch and lots of junk modelling, painting and drawing. Children demonstrated and spoke about a board game they had created and decorated using paper and crayons that they were planning to play later on. Children also described their favourite activities including football, cooking and drawing.

Children have access to regular music using the sound system in the main minding room. They sing and dance along to a range of music and state that they regularly perform dances for others in the group. Children enjoy their outdoor play opportunities and are able to visit a range of interesting places such as Woburn Safari Park, the cinema and amusement parks. Children also take part in nature walks to local areas and enjoy drawing items they have seen, including birds and feathers. These experiences help them to enjoy their time in the setting and help to increase their confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop close relationships with staff and each other who take time to listen to their wishes and encourage them to be confident and independent. Diversity is valued in the setting and there is appropriate support for children who speak English as an additional language and their parents. Children have access to positive images of diversity and the setting has made a series of adaptations to the building to make it accessible to as many people as possible, for example, by installing a lift.

Younger children relate well to each other and behave well in the setting. Staff are confident to deal with a number of behavioural issues and have restructured the make up and timings of some groups of older children to ensure that groups are able to mix appropriately. Murals on the walls remind children of the rules surrounding behaviour and bullying and of the standard of behaviour that is expected of them. Children take part in the 'children's parliament' to ensure that their views are taken into account in many aspects of the setting and this encourages them to feel accepted and valued in the setting. Staff are adequately trained and experienced to deal with a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities and the setting use the local authority for advice and support.

The setting has taken steps to make effective links with parents. Information is provided for parents about the activities planned for the holiday play schemes and they are encouraged to volunteer. There is a specific area for parents to congregate when collecting and this has information for them on menus, activities and the staff rota. Staff talk to parents regularly about their children and are aware of the need to maintain confidentiality in sensitive circumstance. Parents have ready access to policies and procedures and to any information held on their children. Parents' contact details and any medical needs children may have are recorded and they are given information on how to complain to the regulator if they wish to do so and there is an appropriate system in place for dealing with any concerns or complaints. This helps to protect children and they benefit from satisfactory continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by a team of vetted and qualified staff who are suitably deployed to meet required ratios and children's needs. Staff move around the setting, working with different groups as and when they need supervision or support. Staff seem aware of individual roles and responsibilities and manage break-times well to meet children's needs throughout the day.

There is a system for registering all children on the premises. However, although children's usual hours of attendance are noted, in some cases children's actual arrival and departure times are not recorded completely. This affects the setting's ability to confidently identify who is on the premises in the case of an evacuation. The manager understands this and plans to revise the registration system to improve this document. All necessary documentation is in place, with the exception of emergency treatment consent for some children and this underpins the satisfactory practise in the setting. The setting meets the need of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection actions were set that concerned several aspects of the provision. These included developing an action plan that sets out how staff training and qualification requirements will be met, including suitably qualified staff to deputise in the manager's absence. The setting are currently recruiting additional members of staff to deputise in the manager's absence and have altered their staff deployment to consistently meet the required standards. Also the provision were asked to assess the risks to children in relation to regular safety checks not being carried out, the lack of policies and procedures and to improve the system for recording persons on the premises. The setting now carry out regular risk assessments and have collated a series of policies which are available to parents and the inspector. Persons on the premises are recorded each day in the register, the staff register and the visitors book. Staff have also been on central health and safety training since the last inspection. The setting was asked to improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in the regulations and to set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant matters including a change in manager. Staff at the setting have revised and improved their knowledge of significant events and of how to notify Ofsted. The setting was also asked to produce and implement a statement on managing children's behaviour. This has been done and children were consulted in this process and the main rules that arose from the statement have been painted on the wall to remind children daily. The setting was also asked to make a written complaints procedure available to parents. Parents have access to the procedure to follow for complaints and are informed of the regulator's details so that they can make a complaint if they wish. The setting was asked to provide a child protection procedure that complies with the Local Safeguarding Children's Bureau. The procedure that the setting use is in line with local guidelines and staff questioned were aware of the procedure to follow to record and report concerns. Finally, the setting have stored records relating to day care activities so that they are accessible for inspection at all times. These improvements benefit the continuing safety and achievement of all 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 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):

- consider improving procedures for obtaining parental emergency treatment consent for all children
- consider improvements to the registration system to ensure that children's actual times of arrival and departure are consistently recorded.

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