



Braunstone Adventure Playground

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	227017
Inspection date	23 May 2005
Inspector	Justine Ellaway
Setting Address	North End Braunstone Park, Cort Crescent, Braunstone Park, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE3 1QJ
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Registered person	Braunstone Adventure Playground
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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Braunstone Adventure Playground is an Out of School (open access) provision for children aged 5 to 15 years who live on the Braunstone Estate and surrounding area. It operates from a building and playground in Braunstone, Leicester. The building has a games hall, dance studio, art room, photographic dark room and kitchen and the playground includes swings, wooden climbing structures and a ball game area. A maximum of 30 children under 8 years can attend at any one time. The playground is open during term time 15:30 to 18:00 on Mondays and 15:30 to 19:00 from Tuesday to Friday. During Easter holidays the setting opens from 14:00 to 18:00 and during summer holidays from 12:30 to 18:00.

There are currently 45 children aged from 5 to 7 years on roll. The playground currently supports children with special educational needs.

The playground employs seven part time staff, who work with the children. There are also eight persons who make up the management committee. All of the core staff members hold relevant childcare or youth work qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy constant opportunities for physical play which contributes to their good health. Each session they can independently access the large, well organised outdoor environment and participate in play which enhances their physical skills. They enjoy the freedom to go outdoors whenever they wish and their independence is encouraged as they are supported by staff to do this. Suitable sickness and medication policies and procedures promote the good health and well being of children who attend. Children learn about good hygiene through discussion and activities.

Children know and understand about healthy foods and choices and enjoy opportunities to try different foods, however the choice of snack is limited and does not always promote this. As a result some children seek unhealthy options from neighbouring facilities and do not have opportunities to learn about a healthy diet. Children enjoy opportunities to participate in cooking activities, although these are not always available. Children have free access to drinking water.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to play safely and freely as a result of thorough checks and regular risk assessments which minimise risks and hazards. They have a good understanding of how to use the equipment properly, due to staff's own knowledge and understanding which is passed on through discussion. Children's safety outdoors is further enhanced by effective staff deployment and staff remaining vigilant during sessions.

Children have independent access to a range of larger equipment such as table top football, pool and table tennis and supervised access to smaller equipment, for example, books, games, art and craft materials, all of which are of good quality. Children have been instrumental in extending the range of equipment, according to their interests which stimulates their imaginative and creative skills. Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted as there are suitable policies and procedures for child protection and staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children demonstrate confidence and independence in the setting. They are comfortable in the surroundings and in their relationship with their peers and staff members. They are happy to approach others and ask them to join in activities. They show care and concern for others and play well together. Children's confidence and self esteem is developed by the genuine interest shown in them by staff members.

Children develop their social and emotional skills through a range of activities that are appropriate to their age and interests. Their achievements are encouraged by staff who have high expectations of them. Children show genuine enthusiasm for the creative activities on offer and can talk at length about their involvement and achievements. They particularly enjoy dance and the opportunity to perform in front of their peers, staff and parents. They are involved in initiating new activities with staff support. Staff do not make full use of the notice boards in the setting to promote activities and display children's work and as a result children do not always have opportunities to display their achievements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed at the setting and staff respect them and treat them as individuals. Their awareness of differences is enhanced mainly through discussion and some activities in a sensitive way. Children with special needs are included in all play opportunities through the provision of additional support, however the written special needs statement is not up to date and does not reflect practice.

Children are clear about the rules and boundaries of the setting and as a result behave well and with consideration for others. They understand the need to take turns. Their self esteem is raised through praise and encouragement of their achievements. Children's confidence benefits by staff inviting parents to attend various shows and events the children perform in. Parents receive newsletters to keep them informed of what their children are doing.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is supported by the effective organisation of staff and resources. Staff communicate well with the children who are confident and comfortable in the environment and are therefore able to play independently. All of the required information and permissions from parents are in place and most of the policies and procedures are up to date and relevant. However, some of the members of the committee have not yet submitted information to allow vetting procedures to be carried out.

Children benefit from a consistent approach from staff, due to regular staff meetings

which provide ample opportunities to discuss any issues. The provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to provide a statement of the procedure to be followed in the event of a parent failing to collect a child or a child being lost, this has been prepared. A record of time of arrival and departure of staff and evidence of staff qualifications are in place. Parents signature is obtained on medication records and parents have been informed of the setting's responsibility in relation to child protection. The setting was asked to provide details of the management committee to allow the vetting process to take place, this was completed however some of these members have now changed and this needs to be undertaken again.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- extend the range of snacks provided and promote healthy eating within the setting
- ensure all members of the management committee submit necessary documentation to Ofsted to enable the vetting procedure to be completed
- ensure that the special needs policy is relevant to practice and is consistent with current legislation and guidance.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk