



St Mary's Ashford Play Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY216889
Inspection date 21 January 2006
Inspector Clare Stone

Setting Address Western Avenue, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1ND

Telephone number

E-mail

Registered person Kent Play Clubs

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?

St Mary's Ashford Play Club was registered in 2002. It is one of a chain of play clubs managed by a committee through Kent Play Clubs. It operates from a new school hall in the grounds of St Mary's Primary School in Central Ashford. The club serves children from the school and from the nearby St Teresa's Primary School. Apart from the main hall which has a disabled toilet, there is a small kitchen area and further toilets are available at the end of a corridor. The club is also able to use the school playground and playing field, which is adjacent to the hall.

The club is registered to provide 30 places for children aged between 4 and 7 years;

older children may also attend. There are currently 52 children on roll and children may attend on a regular or occasional basis. The club supports children with special needs. The club opens five days a week after school from 3:15-5:45 in term time. There are 4 staff who work with the children and most hold early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

All children have access to an outside playing area, which is in constant use. They play games such as rounders, football and other active games. Children are not offered healthy snacks, but can help themselves to drinks whenever they are thirsty. This does not teach them about healthy eating options and promote awareness of the choices they are making. Children learn about hygiene practices, and gentle reminders from staff help children incorporate this into their daily routine. Children are protected from the risk of infection by the club's clear procedures not to admit children that are unwell.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The club is warm and welcoming, allowing children to feel secure. There are displays of the children's work, giving the children a sense of belonging. Children's safety is promoted through regular risk assessments and the evaluation of these practises. This ensures the children are cared for in a safe and child friendly environment. All equipment is well maintained and thrown away if broken. The children have plenty of space inside and outside ensuring they can move around freely and follow their own interest. A review of child protection procedures would ensure the safety of the children in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, confident and relaxed. They are developing good relationships and get on well with peers. Children have a warm, trusting relationship with the staff who respond to individual needs. However, staff could spend more time sitting with the children playing games.

There is a wide choice of activities and children can choose what they want to play with. This allows them to make decisions and be independent. The children engage in activities such as drawing, games, construction and using the computer. The children were talked to in a kind and reassuring manner allowing them to be themselves and express their likes and dislikes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. This makes them feel good about themselves. They are taught to think of other people and respect their feelings. Children's behaviour is good and parents are informed of any behaviour issues. Regular informal discussions with parents ensure continuity of care for the children. Resources that reflect diversity in our society are limited, so children do not learn about the wider community they live in. There are no children on roll with special needs but the club are forward thinking and have procedures in place to support and assist all parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The manager has a sound understanding of the National Standards. The children benefit from the clear systems in place for working with parents and sharing information. However, the documentation is disorganised and needs updating. This contributes to the welfare of the children. The available space is laid out to provide appropriate play opportunities for children. Resulting in a relaxed and harmonious environment. Staff work well together and are supportive of each other. They also hold appropriate qualifications and are encouraged to attend in house training.

The play club meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

The club had six recommendations made at the last inspection. These were to ensure children have access to drinks at all times, implement a system for formal risk assessments, practise regular fire drills, update their child protection policy to include a procedure to follow if there was an allegation made against a member of staff and existing injuries are recorded. All of these recommendations have been completed.

Another recommendation about increasing the resources that reflect the diversity of society has not been met and remains a recommendation.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- review child protection procedures
- ensure children have the opportunity to access healthy eating options
- increase the range of toys and resources that reflect the diversity of society
- ensure all relevant documentation is in place and up to date

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