

Ken Acock Youth and Community Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date 13/08/2012
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Type of setting Childcare - Non-Domestic

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Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

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Description of the setting

The Ken Acock Holiday Play scheme opened in 2003. It is run by the London Borough of Ealing Play Services and is located at the Ken Acock Youth & Community Centre in Northolt, in the London Borough of Ealing. It is open each weekday for four weeks during the school summer holiday, and occasionally during the Easter holidays, from 8.30am to 5.45pm. Children have access to secure enclosed outdoor play areas.

The play scheme is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of 25 children aged from 5 to under eight may attend the holiday play scheme at any one time. There are currently 50 children on roll. Of these, 13 children are in the early years age group. The play scheme also offers places for children up to 12 years old.

The play scheme supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. It employs eight staff, of whom five hold appropriate early years qualifications.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

The holiday play scheme provides a welcoming and safe environment for children. They enjoy fun play experiences that generally support their learning and development in most areas. Effective partnerships with parents and other agencies contribute towards ensuring that children's individual needs are well met. Staff show enthusiasm and commitment to their work and demonstrate a good capacity for maintaining continuous improvement for the benefit of children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- enable children to have routine access to a range of information and communication technology such as programmable toys and computers.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Staff's good awareness of safeguarding issues promotes children's safety and well-being. They know the signs that could indicate a child is at risk of harm and the procedures to follow to report such concerns. The robust recruitment procedures include checking the suitability of all staff to work with children.

Detailed risk assessments identify potential safety hazards within the centre and grounds and show how they are managed effectively. Thorough measures are also in place to keep children safe on outings. These include procedures for crossing roads safely and staying together.

The provider and manager are firmly committed to the provision of good quality child care. The manager and her motivated staff team routinely reflect upon their practice at the end of the play scheme. Together, they discuss the highlights as well as areas to develop and improve for next time. They welcome feedback from parents and children as part of the evaluation process. The recommendations made at the last inspection have been implemented. These related to ensuring all the necessary policies and procedures were in place and contained all the necessary information. These additions and amendments further support and safeguard children's well-being.

The centre provides plenty of play space for children to explore the varied resources. The range of equipment is good, fit for purpose and supports children's learning in most areas. Children use the resources well, becoming absorbed in their chosen activities. Staff are deployed effectively inside and out to monitor the children and support their play and learning. Children learn to value and respect themselves and others because the staff promote equality and diversity well. All children have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help with decision-making. For example, a democratic vote decides the venue for the weekly outings.

The play scheme staff establish effective partnerships with parents. All relevant information about their child is gained from them at enrolment when a key person is assigned. This ensures that each child receives consistent and appropriate care. Staff are readily available to discuss any issues with parents. The manager ensures that the parent's notice board contains only relevant and up-to-date information to keep parents in touch with what the scheme provides. On the day of the inspection, parents commented that they and their children were very happy with the service provided. They liked the level of security to keep the children safe and the range of activities provided. Staff also make effective links with other agencies to ensure that children receive any additional support they may need to enable them to attend the scheme and to benefit from the experience.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Children have fun at the play scheme as they enjoy a wide range of activities. Staff carry out brief observations on each child in order to assess their stage of development within each area of learning. They use this information to plan activities and experiences that interest each child and help to promote their learning and development. Generally, children are able to develop the skills they will need in the future. They have lots of opportunity to develop communication and language skills because there is a well-stocked book corner which they make good use of. Readily available drawing materials help children to develop their pre-writing skills as well as their creativity. Board games, construction sets and bead

threading all help children develop problem solving and numeracy skills. However, children lack opportunities to develop the skills required to operate information and communication technology. Suitable equipment, such as programmable toys and computers are not available.

Children benefit from having access to several outdoor play areas. This offers plenty of opportunity for them to opt for physical exercise that appeals to them, and to try new things. Children enjoy playing on the basket ball court or playing team games, such as dodge ball, on the grass. The apparatus in the well-equipped playground enables them to climb, slide and swing within a secure area. Children's health is further promoted by joining in the warming-up and stretching exercises as part of the 'wakey, shakey' sessions. Parents provide packed lunches for their children and the play scheme supplies snacks. Themed projects, such as 'Healthy eating', help children to understand the benefits of eating a balanced diet. Fresh fruit is provided for snack each day and water is readily available.

Children's behaviour is good. Every week, the children help to write the club rules and make a commitment towards abiding by them. Typically, the rules include treating everyone as you would like to be treated and being friendly to everyone. Knowing what is expected of them helps children to develop confidence and good self esteem. Children also play well together and form friendships. In addition, children's sense of belonging and security is further enhanced because staff interact with them warmly and with respect. Children learn about keeping safe as they join in with evacuation drills. Learning the safety procedures enables children to take some responsibility for their actions and fosters their independence.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	2

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met