

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY344419
Inspection date	02 April 2007
Inspector	Virginia Cooper
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Registered person	Northfleet Nursery School
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?

Northfleet Nursery Holiday Play Scheme is located in the Northfleet area of Kent, near Gravesend. It opened in 2006 and operates from the same purpose built building of Northfleet Nursery School. Children have access to the whole of the premises, which includes four classrooms, toilet provision and three outside play areas. There is also a kitchen area, office and staff area available.

The scheme can care for up to 26 children from three years to under eight years at any one time. Children are accepted up to the age of 12 years old. It runs for nine weeks a year, this includes February half term, Easter holidays, May half term, four weeks in the Summer and October half term.

There are currently 24 children aged from three to under eight years on roll. The play scheme currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The play scheme employs three members of staff. All of these hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good. Children's good health is promoted in an environment where the staff take positive steps to prevent the spread of infection. Staff ensure the premises are clean by regularly wiping surfaces with anti-bacterial spray and they understand the importance of good hand washing procedures. Children are taught good hygiene practice through the daily routine, for example, they wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

Children are provided with properly prepared, nutritious snacks. Staff frequently discuss healthy eating habits and talk to children about which foods are healthy. A visitor from the National Health Service who promotes oral health visits and teaches children about the importance of brushing their teeth. She helps the children undertake activities where they make snacks with a good variety of fruits and vegetables helping them understand and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Children can access water easily throughout the session; they are able to help themselves encouraging their independence.

Children regularly undertake physical exercise. They play outdoors in the fresh air with play equipment that is particularly interesting and provides challenge even for the older children. The group have a good variety of different bikes; some can take passengers encouraging children to be co-operative. One is shaped like a plane and the handlebars are to the side, steering the vehicle is more of a challenge and children's co-ordination is tested. They gain great satisfaction from mastering this skill.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good. The premises are safe and secure; a security system ensures that the door is always answered by an adult. Staff prepare the environment so children are able to begin play as soon as they arrive. They use all the rooms differently, accommodating the children's needs for messy play, quiet play and more boisterous activities. A room is set aside for the older children allowing them some respite from the little ones; they can undertake activities here without being interrupted.

There are nursery size tables and chairs enabling the younger children to manage tasks more easily. The toys and resources are very good quality and create a stimulating environment. Children can access the resources easily enabling them to exercise choice.

A thorough risk assessment is carried out by the head teacher regularly. Staff visually check the premises each day to maintain these standards and to ensure required safety equipment is in place, for example socket covers.

All staff have recently attended child protection training ensuring they can recognise signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect. A child protection policy is in place that makes it clear to all members of staff the procedure to take if they have any concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good. Children are very happy, relaxed and confident. The staff are warm and affectionate, making children feel comfortable and valued. The children are learning important social skills and enjoy the interaction especially at meal times and when playing outside. Children show good levels of independence, they make choices about the activities they become involved in and the toys they wish to play with. The staff encourage children to do things for themselves and give good support when children are learning new skills, for example, pedalling a bike or climbing outside.

Children are creative and staff provide them with a good range of materials to construct things and to use for their art and craft projects. They are imaginative and role-play helps them make sense of the world about them. Children develop a healthy interest in books; they are learning that books are for gathering information as well as for pleasure. They communicate successfully with peers and staff and are keen to

share their ideas.

They take an interest in technology and older children love to use the white board and play on games consoles.

Staff nurture children enabling them to grow and develop at a pace suitable for them, taking account of their individual needs. Children are curious and will experiment freely, for example, they are fascinated when they make iron filings move with a magnet. The outdoor play equipment is new, interesting and provides challenge. Children love to play outside, staff encourage them to be adventurous and enable them to gain physical confidence by teaching them how to use equipment safely.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good. Staff have a good understanding of equality issues. They are attentive to all children and include activities that help children appreciate and value diversity. Staff have a very willing attitude about caring for children with learning or physical disabilities. They ensure children with difficulties take an active role in the setting and will adapt activities as necessary.

Children behave well, they play happily and co-operate easily with one another. Children help to make rules for the play scheme and staff include things that are important to them. For example, one rule children specifically requested was 'no learning'. Staff take comments like this on board and ensure that what they deliver is very different to school. The emphasis is upon having fun and socialising, the learning is present and happens without children realising as staff feed their natural curiosity.

The play scheme staff ask all visitors to the group to complete an evaluation form to help them improve the quality of their provision. The feedback is very positive from parents and professionals and several note the happy and welcoming environment. Staff listen to parents and after several requests they now offer different session times to accommodate different family needs. Several parents commented about how much their children enjoy the play scheme and are keen to attend.

Organisation

The organisation is good. The co-ordinator is very well organised, all the staff have a positive and clear vision for the after school club and are continually looking at ways to improve the service they provide. All staff are vetted and suitable to care for children. The staff are all aware of their responsibilities towards the children and therefore the children's welfare is always the priority. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

The pace and routine of the play scheme is good; children are familiar with the daily programme and this helps them feel 'at home' and secure. The daily routine is organised to include quiet times, active times and meal times. The staff work well as a team and everything runs smoothly. They evaluate after each holiday what went well and what might be improved continually raising the quality.

There are effective procedures in place to allow the deputy to take over if the manager is away; the deputy is familiar with all the documentation and the organisation of the play scheme. All required records are in place and kept confidentially. The policies and procedures are available for parents to see, however, there are several documents that relate to the same policy because the play scheme relate to the school policies as well as their own. It is not easy for parents to access a quick overview of the service provided.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- consider how the policies and procedures can be presented in a parent friendly format enabling them to access a quick overview of the service provided.

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