

St. Clement and St. James Playcentre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	159484
Inspection date	05 February 2008
Inspector	Susan Marriott / Diane Mary O'Neill
Setting Address	St. Clements & St. James C of E Primary School, Penzance Place, London, W11 4PG
Telephone number	0207 602 7486
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Registered person	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St. Clements and St. James Play Centre was registered in 2001. It is situated in St. Clements and St. James School in Notting Hill and operates from three classrooms. A maximum of 32 children under eight years may attend the centre at any one time. The centre is open each weekday from 15.30 till 18.00, during term time only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. There are currently 130 children on roll. The centre supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as a second language. The centre employs six staff. Four of the staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two staff are working towards a qualification. The provision receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children stay healthy because staff consistently understand and implement good health and hygiene practices. Staff take positive steps to protect children from infection. They wear gloves when serving food and encourage children to follow good hygiene practice by washing their

hands thoroughly at appropriate times. Posters remind children of the correct routines in a fun learning style. Generously stocked first aid boxes are located all over the school and a central box is kept in the play centre office. Highly proactive monitoring of the status of refresher training means that the registered person offers update training before certificates expire. This ensures that children receive appropriate treatment in case of emergency because most staff hold current first aid qualifications.

Children may choose to take part in outdoor physical play incorporating imaginative play, planned sports and games or 'loose play'. Tired children are sensitively supported by staff and able to rest in an appropriate quiet area, suitably furnished with books and cushions. Children actively learn about the importance of healthy eating and drinking in this setting. Displays in the school hall show centre project work on healthy food which makes up a 'rainbow of fruit and vegetables'. Children are provided with fresh drinking water and nutritious, balanced snacks appropriate to their individual needs. A weekly tea menu is displayed for information.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children's safety takes top priority in this exceptionally well-organised setting. The level of supervision is significantly enhanced because staff are conscientious and vigilant and this secures children's welfare. The centre uses designated areas within the school which are purpose-designed and provide space for bright and welcoming displays of children's work and centre information. The centre works effectively in partnership with the school to ensure that toilet areas are cleaned promptly at the end of the school day. This arrangement ensures that facilities are appropriately clean and hygienic for the children. The staff use the resources and all play areas imaginatively to provide fun and interesting learning experiences. For example, on the day of inspection, many children were enjoying a talent contest event in the large hall and the classrooms and playground provided a wealth of alternative activities for those children who did not want to participate or attend.

The entrance doors and all outside areas used by children are secure. All necessary safety measures are in place and access to the provision is carefully monitored. On the day of inspection, due to the extra children on the premises for the talent contest, the staff issue badges to all centre children to facilitate rapid identification and tracking by staff. Visitors must produce identity documentation and sign the visitor records and doors are fully secured. Staff know what to do in an emergency and drills are practised with appropriate frequency to secure the safety of children. Vigorous risk assessments and frequent physical checks of the environment, activities and resources, ensure children's total well-being. Written health and safety procedures are effectively implemented. This constantly monitors and minimises potential risk to children. Children are robustly safeguarded as staff have a strong and confident working knowledge of child protection procedures in line with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy, enthusiastic and self-assured in this inspiring and animated provision where staff implement their play philosophy linked to the five outcomes for children on the 'Every Child Matters' agenda. They ensure that they provide activities which address 19 different identified types of play. The play centre publishes a seasonal planning sheet which is flexible according to the choices of children and the constraints of the weather.

Children have easy access to a variety of enriching play opportunities that are of high quality, fun, safe, inclusive and that actively contribute to their learning and development. All resources are age-appropriate and accessible on shelves or in drawers. Children confirm that they make their own choices and can decide whether they want to participate in boisterous sports, creative activities or quieter activities. Photographs show the children making fruit salad and role play. Photographs show them enjoying imaginative outdoor play with empty boxes.

The children love to sing and staff arrange a weekly karaoke session. Staff encourage the children to broaden their musical tastes to include Frank Sinatra alongside the popular contemporary tracks. For example, they enjoy a wide range of arts and crafts to include model-making, badge-making, bead work and painting. The sports programme includes football, cricket, basketball and rounders. The play centre links into school activities and clubs such as literacy club or the homework club. Sometimes, children can take part in inter-centre activities with other play centres in the borough and older children have the opportunity to extend their skills at the climbing wall in Chelsea.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children come first in this exceptional provision. They join in, take responsibility and play a productive part in the setting. Relevant information is recorded to enable staff to provide a highly individualised standard of care to each child. Each member of staff is a key worker for a randomly mixed age group of children and each group is named after a planet in the solar system. Resources reflect diversity and girls and boys interact well together and take part in all activities. On a map of the world in the school hall, children are invited to mark their country of origin and add their names to the relevant lists of festivals they celebrate to reflect their individual backgrounds, customs and beliefs. Staff have a highly positive attitude to children with learning difficulties or disabilities. They welcome these children into the provision and take immense care to support and involve them with all activities.

An innovative 'Children's committee', which is elected by the children attending the setting gives children attending the play centre a real voice in contributing to their play environment. Children's opinions are genuinely valued and photographs of the committee members are displayed on the staff identification board, demonstrating their equal respect and status. They are able to assist in the decision-making process about matters such as choice of activities and refreshments. The committee is given a budget for activities and equipment and meets with a play worker at least once a term to review and look at existing procedures. Children manage the meetings and produce minutes in consultation with the play worker representative.

Continuity of care between the school and the play centre is properly valued. Some staff work in the school during the day and know the children very well. Children are treated with enormous respect and courtesy at all times. Children respond with mutual respect and adhere to appropriate codes of conduct. Behaviour is very good. Golden rules, devised by the children themselves, are displayed on cupboards and walls. The behaviour expectations code is expressed in terms of a behaviour ladder with a traffic-light coding system. This is clearly understood by the children themselves. Staff praise and endorse desirable behaviour such as kindness and willingness to share.

The setting has an outstanding commitment to partnership with parents and carers. Professionally presented notice boards are displayed in prominent positions for parents, carers and children. These include policies, procedures, information and news. Parents receive regular

newsletters and updates. Parents all receive a guidebook setting out terms, conditions, aims, objectives and statements about the setting's approach to equal opportunities, child protection and behaviour management. Parents are strongly encouraged to express their views and opinions via a suggestion box which is displayed in a prominent position. A suitable complaints process is in place and shared with parents. All parents approached, were vociferous in their high praise of the centre, complimenting the activities provided and the excellent communication between themselves and staff.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

This is an extremely well-organised and well-prepared service, delivering high quality play to meet the needs of the children. The centre has recently been awarded level 2 in the 'Quality In Play' Quality Assurance scheme run by London Play. The service is part of the Play Strategy for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and this is displayed so that adults and children can make their contributions to highlight the quality of provision and to draw up an action plan to address any findings. Recruitment and induction procedures are appropriately robust and ensure that staff are suitable to work with children.

The manager is highly committed, experienced and well qualified. He has an exemplary knowledge and understanding of the National Standards and the key elements of high-quality play experiences. Highly effective self-evaluation systems enable staff to continually reflect upon their daily practice and improve the service for children and their parents. Staff are appropriately experienced and qualified and have a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities. The centre creates opportunities for further training and development for staff. This helps staff to develop their skills in meeting the aims of the setting and children's individual needs. This extremely skilled staff team inspire and execute a variety of enriching play opportunities for children. Systems for recording the hours of attendance of children and staff are suitably robust to ensure the safety of all.

Documentation is of a superb standard and the colourful, professional presentation makes it attractively accessible for staff, parents and children alike. For example, children are invited to complete a 'What you need to know about me' form, which prompts children to identify their achievements and things in which they take pride. Comprehensive and detailed written procedures and guidance securely underpin the cohesive working practice of the staff. For example, as part of the induction programme, all staff have to read the policies and procedures and sign to confirm that they have done so. They complete a daily debrief sheet to maintain thoroughly effective communication at all levels. Photographs of members of the children's committee appear alongside those of the staff and make a clear statement that children have a voice in contributing to their play environment. Children relish their time at the setting and are keen to attend. Overall, the needs of all children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the setting was asked to address two recommendations. The setting now ensures toilet areas are checked for health and safety before children arrive for the after school

sessions and has amended the complaints procedure to contain the regulator's address. The actions taken have further improved the quality and standards of the care provided.

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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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