



## The Activity Club - Willington

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** EY248186  
**Inspection date** 17 March 2006  
**Inspector** Sally Ann Smith

**Setting Address** The Old Schoolhouse, Castle Way, Willington, Derby,  
Derbyshire, DE65 6BT  
**Telephone number** 07788 728391  
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**Registered person** The Activity Club  
**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](http://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?

The Activity Club Willington opened in 2000. It operates from three rooms within The Old School in Willington, Derbyshire. The club is open each weekday from 07:30 to 09:00 and 15:00 to 18:00 during term time and 07:30 to 18:00 during school holidays. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 86 children from 3 years to 11 years on roll. The club support a number of children with special needs.

The club employs seven staff, four of whom have a recognised early years

qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn and understand the importance of basic personal hygiene such as washing their hands before eating food. They spontaneously wash their hands after playing with paint or glue. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of the procedures for notifiable and communicable diseases and appropriate hygiene routines are in place to prevent the spread of infection. Whilst permission is obtained to transport children to hospital in an emergency, the written procedure does not clarify parent's wishes with regards to seeking any necessary medical advice or treatment. This compromises children's health.

Children are generally provided with healthy snacks and meals, although on occasions they have biscuits and crisps. On their return from school children have a choice of sandwiches with various fillings and a variety of fresh fruit. However, children spend considerable time queuing for their food which is served to them from the kitchen. Children have water or juice to drink with their snack which is poured for them by staff. Drinks are available throughout the session but the jugs are placed on high ledges making them difficult for children to access. These factors combined limit children's independence. Staff have responded to parental requests to provide for example, jacket potatoes and salad and this has proved a great success with the children. During the holiday play schemes, children are provided with a freshly prepared cooked meal. All children's dietary requirements are catered for in consultation with their parents. Children are beginning to learn about healthy eating through planned topics.

Children enjoy all areas of physical activity regularly going outside for fresh air and participating in a variety of games. They play football, cricket and different team games. Many children walk to and from school with staff.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in an environment which is safe and well organised to enable them to move freely around the rooms. Children are closely supervised by staff and they monitor access to the provision closely to ensure children are safe and unable to leave them unsupervised. There is a system for recording children's arrival and departure. Each child has their own book of attendance which parents sign and place in the 'out' box when they collect their child. However, staff also sign an additional register which accurately records children's arrival and departure. Clear procedures are in place in the event of a child being lost or uncollected and staff are conversant with these. Risk assessments are in place and these are periodically reviewed. Whilst emergency evacuation procedures are practised, the frequency does not always take

account of new groups of children and staff induction therefore compromising their safety.

Staff demonstrate a sound understanding of child protection procedures to ensure children's welfare and safety is paramount. They are aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse, their responsibility to protect children in their care and the necessary steps to be taken when a concern is raised. However, staff are not familiar with procedures where allegations are made against staff and the implications for their practice.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children enter the provision enthusiastically, full of chatter and keen to share their news with the other children and staff. They automatically help themselves to the resources available or select writing and colouring materials whilst waiting for other children to return from various schools, before having tea. Children relate well to each other and are particularly good at taking turns when playing with different resources and equipment. They require little intervention from staff, preferring to negotiate with each other for a preferred toy.

Space is organised in order to provide children with areas where they can sit quietly at tables drawing, cutting and making collages for example or floor space where they can build and construct various models. Staff enable children to play independently and initiate their own activities but are on hand to provide more support and direction if necessary. Activities are planned to meet children's physical, intellectual and creative needs and take account of children's requests. For example, children particularly enjoy cooking and therefore this is a regular feature in the weekly plans. Children are involved in regular projects and themes which are imaginatively planned. A recent example is volcanoes where children have explored their origins and created a visual display of their volcanic creations. The theme culminated in the children making a volcano and watching it erupt which they thoroughly enjoyed. Children are involved in regular drama productions which they plan and organise with the help of staff. Much thought goes into writing the script, designing the costumes, set and programmes and organising rehearsals. Children also organise their own chess club which attracts a lot of interest, regardless of their ability.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children play together cooperatively, sharing and taking turns with the various resources. Staff provide clear routines and boundaries so that children know what is expected of them and consequently behave well. Children are polite, courteous and say please and thank you spontaneously. The atmosphere is calm and industrious and raised voices are discouraged. Children are regularly praised for their achievements to increase their self-esteem.

Children benefit from the positive and trusting relationships that staff establish with their parents. There is a two-way flow of information and parents are warmly welcomed into the setting. Relevant information in a handbook and on the notice board is available for parents perusal. Staff respond to suggestions from parents such as improving the snacks for children. Staff listen to parents regarding their child's care which means that children are happy and relaxed in their play environment. All children's individual needs are accounted for in consultation with their parents.

Children with special needs are welcomed in the setting and activities are very well planned or adapted to ensure that they are fully included. One to one support is provided where necessary in order to promote their welfare and development. Children show care and concern for each other and are sensitive to each others feelings. Some planned activities looking at festivals such as Chinese New Year and Diwali help children appreciate cultural differences. However, there is little evidence of resources, posters or pictures to promote positive images of race, culture and gender and this means children's awareness of these is limited.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from space which is appropriately organised to meet their needs and provide them with a variety of play opportunities. Staff are effectively deployed to support children's learning and play and good adult to child ratios are maintained at all times. There is generally a good balance of activities both inside and outside.

Written policies and procedures are used to promote the care and welfare of the children although some lack all the necessary detail. These are currently being revised to reflect the changes to the national standards and supporting criteria. Induction procedures are in place to inform staff about the way the setting operates although the written induction checklist is not always effective in ensuring that staff are aware of all the required elements, for example practising emergency evacuation procedures. However, staff work together well as a team and are clear of their roles and responsibilities.

Children's records are up-to-date and accurately maintained as parents are reminded to notify staff of any changes. All records are stored safely, securely and made available for inspection upon request.

Staff have opportunities to attend training courses to update their knowledge, understanding and practice.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection staff were required to ensure that the setting's procedure for lost and uncollected children was available. This is now in place and staff are

conversant with the procedures. In addition, staff were required to ensure that the hot water did not pose a hazard to the children. The thermostat has been turned down so that children are able to use the water safely.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

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

The provider is required to keep a copy 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):

- improve the procedures for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment taking account of parent's wishes
- improve the child protection procedures to include procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer
- consider arrangements for meals and drinks to encourage children's independence
- increase the range of resources, activities, posters and displays to reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability
- improve the induction procedure for staff to cover all required elements.

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