



Meadows Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY316466
Inspection date	29 March 2006
Inspector	Sarah Jane Rhodes
Setting Address	Meadows Primary School, Newcastle Road, Madeley Heath, Madeley, Nr Crewe, CW3 9BT
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Registered person	Ruth Elizabeth Morris
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?

Meadows Out of School Club is one of three out of school clubs and one nursery run by the same provider. It opened in 2006 and operates from two rooms on school premises. It is situated in a village in Newcastle-under-Lyme. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 08:00 to 09:00 and 15:30 until 18:00, term time only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 19 children from 4 to 11 years on roll. Children come from a very local area.

The club employs two staff. Both of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. One staff member is working towards a further qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment. They enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Being active is strongly encouraged. Outdoor sports such as netball and football are provided to encourage children with a physical challenge. Most children join in enthusiastically as the staff support and monitor their play. Children develop their physical skills and have a positive attitude towards exercise and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through well-planned routines. They are able to use very good quality hand washing facilities and are independent in their self care skills. They know that they need to wash their hands before eating their snack, to ensure germs from their hands do not contaminate the food and understand the importance of covering their mouth if they cough. This clear knowledge helps reduce the risk of cross contamination. Children's medical needs both in an emergency and with regard to ongoing medication are met through the use of accident and medication procedures that are understood by all the staff. Medication has not been given since registration and currently there are no recording forms. Clear procedures for sick and infectious children help prevent the spread of infection and keeps children healthy.

Children benefit from a healthy and nutritious diet. They have access to drinks throughout the session ensuring they are not left thirsty. The club provides an after school snack of sandwiches made from wholemeal bread and fruit, all dietary requirements are discussed with parents and vegetarian options are available. The careful, appetizing presentation and appropriate encouragement from staff at meal times, helps children develop a positive attitude to healthy eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, well-organised, child friendly environment, where all risks to children are limited through good safety and security procedures. Staff monitor access to the group at all times and precautions are taken by staff to ensure the outdoor areas are safe and adequately secure. Risk assessments are completed regularly. Fire evacuation procedures are fully understood by staff and practised twice a term. This helps children remain safe, and allows children to have a full understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

Children can access a good range of high quality, safe resources, appropriate for the interests of primary school children. These are well-presented by staff and children

are able to choose from the inviting range stored at low level in the group room. Staff explain safe practices to children, such as, not running inside as they may fall and hurt themselves. This helps children learn to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

Staff have a secure understanding of child protection procedures and reporting processes, which ensures children are well protected. All staff have had a full induction into the club's child protection procedures, which ensures that staff fully understand their responsibilities in protecting children from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children really enjoy their time at the club, all arrive happy and eager to participate. They are able to access an interesting variety of activities both inside and outside which contribute to their enjoyment of a constructive leisure time. On the day of inspection after a social snack time, children played outside with balls and then moved inside for craft activity or construction play. The children find the range of activities provided stimulating and fun. They are absorbed in their chosen task, encouragement from staff and each other helps them to produce good performances at the games and interesting art work.

The children and staff work together to plan the activities. Staff pick up on children's interests, for example, making cheer leader pom-poms. They also introduce new activities to broaden children's horizons and increase their skills, for example, cross-stitch needlework. The children are supportive of one another and help each other with tasks. Their strong relationships with adults, who value them, the work they produce and their opinions, help them develop a positive sense of self and very good self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and play a full part in the club because staff value their contribution and respect their individual choices. All children regardless of gender or ability are encouraged and enabled to take part in their chosen activity. Staff are active in dispelling negative stereotypes, especially regarding gender and activities such as needlecraft, this creates an inclusive and positive atmosphere. However resources with positive images of culture, gender and disability are limited. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents in detail. Any special requirements are discussed and consistent communication and information exchange takes place. No children with special needs are currently cared for but the club feels it would recognise and meet any additional needs sensitively, obtaining appropriate support to ensure that the child can make progress.

The children's behaviour is exemplary. They respond positively and honestly to boundaries set by the staff because staff treat them with respect. Also they take part

in setting the rules and understand why certain rules are in place. They are polite to all, cooperative with each other and are respectful to adults and the environment. They help each other if they get stuck on an activity, for example with the making of pom-poms. Children are developing positive relationships with all adults and children. Staff use praise and encouragement constantly with the children, they have a points system that links in with the schools behaviour management scheme, which acknowledges the children's achievements. These positive strategies helps to build self-esteem and confidence.

Children benefit from a positive partnership between staff and parents. The staff take time to encourage parents to gain information about how the club operates through discussion and reading the policies. If staff need to exchange information with parents they do this verbally at the beginning or end of the session or by telephone if necessary, newsletters are sent out regularly.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the committed and supportive staff team. There are robust staff recruitment and vetting procedures which ensure children are well protected. All staff who work with the children are qualified and additional training courses have been attended. This contributes to the quality of care and experiences provided for children. Staff are well managed and there are good systems in place to provide clear direction, support and leadership, for example, staff appraisals and induction.

Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare and care of children. Appropriate guidance is given by the provider to ensure that staff are clear in their roles. All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well being is in place and is regularly reviewed

The premises are well organised. Indoor and outdoor spaces are laid out to give children good play opportunities. Children are at ease and confident to choose their own activities and enjoy their leisure time. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- provide a medication record document to support staff in obtaining all required permissions and recording all relevant information
- further develop the provision of resources that provide positive images of culture, gender and disability.

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