



Cherubs and Imps

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	305015
Inspection date	29 November 2006
Inspector	Sue Anslow
Setting Address	Congleton High School, Box Lane, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4NS
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Registered person	Trudi Robin Wong
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?

Cherubs and Imps Out of School Club is one of two out of school clubs run by the same private provider. It opened in 2000 and operates from two rooms in a mobile unit in the grounds of Congleton High School on the outskirts of Congleton town centre. A maximum of 40 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. Children from the age of three years to 11 years of age attend the club. The club is open five days a week from 15:00 to 18:00 during term times only. Holiday care is offered at the sister club, also in Congleton, during all holidays except Christmas. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

There are currently 48 children on roll. Children are collected from a number of schools in the area by out of school club staff. The club employs four staff. Two have appropriate early years qualifications and two are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop an awareness of the benefits of keeping healthy through effective hygiene practices and consistent routines. They have an understanding about self-care skills and maintaining their own health as they wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. This practice ensures children's health is protected. There is a written policy in place detailing the procedures for managing sick children, accidents and medication, which further promotes children's health requirements. The care of the club's pets is managed hygienically, with children understanding why they need to wear special aprons when handling the guinea pigs or snails, and the need to wash their hands afterwards. Children enjoy outdoor activities which support and help their physical skills as well as contributing to a healthy lifestyle. They benefit from good access to a grassy garden at the side of their building and have use of one of the school tennis courts for playing ball games. The extensive school grounds enable children to explore nature as they go for walks in the better weather.

Children are well nourished with a freshly prepared snack at every session and they choose from a variety of food such as cereals, sandwiches, toast or crackers. They often help to prepare their own snacks, which helps their understanding of fresh, healthy food and promotes independence and physical dexterity. Fresh fruit is also provided at every session. Children have access to drinking water on request and water or milk is served with the snack. Children's individual dietary needs are respected, in consultation with parents, and these are maintained to ensure children stay healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy ample space, both indoors and outside, for a wide variety of activities. They confidently select play equipment from the range available, all of which is appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children access toys and equipment that are safe and hygienic, and the regular checking and cleaning of furniture, toys and equipment promotes children's health and safety at all times.

Children's safety is protected by staff who are vigilant at all times and complete regular risk assessments to prevent accidents and keep children safe. Staff follow detailed procedures with regard to collecting children from school and transporting them to the club and children are always accompanied by adults when playing outside. Written emergency evacuation procedures are displayed in the building. However, not all children are familiar with the procedures, due to the fact that it is only practised twice a year, which compromises some children's safety in an emergency. Children are protected from possible harm or abuse by the staff's sound knowledge of child protection procedures. Parents are informed of the club's responsibilities through the written information in the club's brochure and notices displayed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and relaxed in the company of the staff. They enjoy the time spent in the out of school club where they can relax or be active according to their needs and interests. They are motivated, eager and actively participate in the many activities and experiences offered to them. There is a good range of resources which are used well to interest children and develop their learning.

Children are confident and relate well to each other. They are well supported by staff who encourage the children to take part in activities which offer interest, enjoyment and extend their play experiences. Children's self-esteem is promoted by staff who listen and talk to them, answering questions or offering suggestions. Children develop their large and small physical skills through various games in the outdoor play areas and the many and varied art and craft activities indoors. They help prepare their own snacks once a week and enjoy competitive construction building. The children enjoy 'their own' club, where they are able to choose what they want to play with and have the freedom to play together or separately. Children come together for a short news-time during each session, where they take it in turns to relay a piece of news to the group and listen quietly to each other's stories. Guessing games, quizzes and competitions also promote children's learning whilst having lots of fun.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met well because staff liaise closely with parents, observe children's characters and interests and provide appropriate activities and resources. Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are welcome to attend the out of school club and are included in all activities to the extent of their abilities. Children learn something of the world around them through the celebration of festivals and the care of the club's pets. Children behave well and enjoy mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. They develop self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and make decisions. They develop a positive attitude to others as they learn to share and take turns, becoming increasingly independent and able to take responsibility for meeting their own needs. Staff praise and encourage efforts, achievements and helpfulness and are on hand to prevent any confrontations or difficulties.

Partnership with parents is good. A brochure outlines the aims and objectives of the out of school club and informs parents of the policies and procedures followed by staff in the running of the club. Relevant information and appropriate written consents are obtained from parents prior to their child starting, which ensures that staff have what they need to support the care and good management of all children attending. The relaxed, informal environment encourages parents and staff to exchange information at the end of each session and parents are liberal in their praise of the club's care arrangements and flexibility.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is managed well by a team of experienced staff who work very well together. Qualified supervisors lead each session and all staff are checked and inducted appropriately, which enhances the safety and well-being of the children. Staff update their knowledge and skills on a regular basis by accessing short courses and workshops through Cheshire Sure Start and sufficient emergency cover is assured by a register of extra staff.

Well organised activities ensure children are happily occupied in the relaxed and informal environment. They enjoy ample play space both indoors and outside in the enclosed play areas, and a balance of quiet and active play ensures all needs are met. Appropriate records are kept up to date as required, enhancing the general care of the children, and confidentiality is respected and maintained. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The provider was asked to repair a broken fence in the garden and amend the child protection policy in line with the National Standards. Both these recommendations have been completed satisfactorily, enhancing and protecting the children's safety and security.

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 complaint 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):

- increase the regularity of emergency evacuation procedures to ensure every child is familiar with the practice.

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