



Schools Out

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY263155
Inspection date	18 January 2007
Inspector	Julie Firth
Setting Address	Cloverlea Primary School, Green Lane North, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 7NQ
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Registered person	Elmscot Day Nursery Ltd
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?

Schools Out was registered in 2003. It operates from the art room in the school building of Cloverlea primary school, Timperley. Children have access to the large secure playground. The club serves the children who attend the school.

The club is open each weekday from 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 18.00 term time only. A maximum of 22 children may attend the club at any one time and there are currently 44 children aged from three to under 11 years on roll. The club supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

There are three staff and one operational manager, all of whom hold appropriate play work and child care qualifications. The group are supported by Trafford Sure Start.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from illness and infection because the staff conscientiously follow current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines. There are good routines in place for the cleaning of the premises and staff ensure that toys are regularly cleaned and surfaces wiped down with anti-bacterial spray after meals and messy play. Children clearly understand simple good health and hygiene practices and they all wash their hands before handling food and after using the bathroom. They are fully aware of their hygiene routines as they line up to wash their hands before snack time. Staff are suitably qualified in first aid to enable them to appropriately treat children with minor injuries.

Daily indoor and outdoor routines include activities to help children develop physical skills and promote a healthy lifestyle. They make good use of the outdoor school playground running in the fresh air, using bats and balls, and indoors stretching to keep fit exercises.

Children understand the importance of having regular drinks to stay hydrated as they help themselves at the drinks fountain. Children enjoy nutritious snacks and are given a variety of fruits throughout each session. Children enjoy tasting the different fruits on offer each evening. Snack times are happy social occasions where children relax and enjoy each others company. A number of staff hold food hygiene certificates which ensures that snacks are prepared in an appropriate manner. The children's dietary requirements are met well as staff work with parents in finding out their child's requirements and respectfully follow these.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and stimulating environment. Due to relocation in the building a new room is currently being used as part of the registration on a temporary basis. Children can move from one activity to another and the art room is adapted for sole use to Schools Out when the children are present.

Children confidently choose from an accessible, wide range of toys and equipment that are age appropriate. They develop independence as they choose from equipment which is easily accessed on low tables, or at floor level around the room. Children confidently ask for toys that are not out. The resources are clean, safe and well maintained to ensure the children's safety. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the health and safety policies and how to keep children safe. The children move around in a safe environment where risks are identified, minimised and reviewed at staff meetings. There are stringent procedures for signing children in and out of the club ensuring they are accounted for at all times. Children are only collected by the named person or person whom the staff are familiar with.

Children's welfare is protected because staff have a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. A detailed child protection policy is in place and staff update their child protection training regularly.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and play harmoniously together in the relaxed and friendly environment. They relate well to staff and talk positively about their experiences in the club. Staff fully question the children and allow them to speak about their day. They talk about what activity they are doing, promoting colours, numbers and conversation with the children at all times. Children play imaginatively in the role play area and create a shop. They enjoy chatting to each other at the till and putting items in their baskets. A good selection of board games, the use of the computer and games console, helps children to achieve better levels of concentration and enhance their language and listening skills. They take great delight playing with small world scenes. Creative opportunities allow children to explore a variety of media, as they make cards, use play dough and magnets. They engage in paper weaving and have the opportunity to do their homework to allow them to have spare time at home. Workshops relating to health, safety and equality are planned for the future to raise children's awareness of these issues while having fun. However, children do not have an opportunity to relax in a quiet area inside the room or read books for pleasure. Children who attend the 'Schools Out' holiday club, which is on a different site, are taken to places of interest to enable them to gain experiences of the local community. Older children show a high level of enthusiasm when looking after younger children, helping them to settle and become confident.

Activities in the club follow a long term and weekly programme with regular new themes introduced. Staff plan together and ask the children for their contributions and ideas. A child friendly survey is given to the children to ask about their likes and dislikes. This allows children to have full involvement of how they like to organise their daily sessions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children receive good staff support to ensure they all feel included and they follow a structured routine in the club. There are a suitable range of toys and activities in place that reflect equality of opportunity. Staff plan topics on Divali and the Chinese culture and children enjoy tasting noodles. However, more resources are needed to ensure children have a full awareness of diversity and the world around them. Staff demonstrate a positive attitude towards the care of children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

Children are well behaved and say 'please' and 'thank you' at snack time and during group activities. The staff are good role models, they speak calmly and quietly to the children and have good strategies in place for achieving appropriate behaviour. Staff promote children's self-esteem and confidence as they praise their efforts and talents and make space around the club to display their work until they can take them home.

Staff have built up good relationships with parents and create a welcoming atmosphere. Positive feedback from parents indicates a high level of care is provided. A notice board and a detailed brochure displays information about day-to-day events and policies within the club. They receive verbal feedback on a daily basis about their child's activities. A written complaints

procedure is in place, and any complaints will be dealt with appropriately. This effective communication between parents and staff provides consistency for children in their care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Effective recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are protected and cared for by staff. The management are committed to improving the quality of care they provide for children and encourage the staff to attend further training. The operational manager who oversees various sites of Schools Out, meets regularly with staff to ensure they are all aware of recent developments and address any concerns they may have. A good induction and appraisal system is in place. She has a secure knowledge of child development and works closely with the school's headteacher and Trafford Sure Start. The leaders of the group are experienced and know the children well. Children are appropriately supervised both indoors and outdoors and staff work well as a team as they access and respond to the children's interests. Children are happy and settled in a calm environment and enjoy choosing activities from the options available. Children follow a structured routine and there is a good operational plan in place demonstrating that staff regard the well-being of all children.

A comprehensive booklet of policies and procedures are in place, which contributes to the safety and well-being of children being cared for. These are shared with parents to keep them informed about their service and their child's activities. All documentation is in place and correctly maintained.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group was asked to ensure equal access to resources and the planning of activities meets the needs of the children under five years.

All children have equal access to resources and activities and staff include all children. Activities are planned for the children under five years to promote their development.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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 quiet area where children can relax and read for pleasure
- further develop resources and activities to promote children's awareness of diversity.

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