

# Poulton After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	309770
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Denise Sixsmith
<b>Setting Address</b>	Poutlon C of E School, Hardhorn Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire, FY6 7SR
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<b>Registered person</b>	Poulton After School Club
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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?

Poulton After School Club has been operating since 1999. It is run by a committee and serves the children from the school. The club operates from the school hall of Poulton Church of England Primary School which is situated on the main road into Poulton, in the Fylde area of Lancashire. A maximum of 30 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 15.30 to 17.30 term time only. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 31 children from four to under eight years on roll. Older children from the school also attend the club.

The committee employs four members of staff including the supervisor. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept healthy and free from infection because staff have a good understanding of how and why procedures should be implemented. Staff are diligent in ensuring that the toilets are clean and well stocked with soap and towels prior to the club starting, as well as ensuring children wash their hands prior to snack time. They follow appropriate food hygiene procedures, such as wearing protective clothing and cleaning surfaces before and after preparing the snacks. Children's well-being is promoted because most of the staff have received training in first aid and are booked on refresher training this term. However, some of the contents of the first aid box have passed their expiry date. Systems are in place to comply with requirements for recording and reporting accidents and these are followed well by staff with records being up to date.

Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills as staff plan regular opportunities to play outside in the playground. The children enjoy running around in a vigorous manner, which helps them to raise their heart rate, improve their fitness and move around after their day in school. They thoroughly enjoy team games, such as quick cricket, football and bat and ball games. Good access to a varied selection of tools and craft materials, as well as the opportunity to spread their sandwiches, helps children to practise and improve their manipulation skills and dexterity.

Staff are familiar with children's individual dietary needs and preferences. Snack times are relaxed social occasions as children sit in groups and are invited to make some choice about what they would like for their snack. This includes the choice of sliced ham, chicken or cheese for their sandwiches and choice from the platter of chopped bananas, carrots and apples. Children have regular access to fresh drinking water and juice to keep themselves refreshed and hydrated.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in premises that are suitably maintained and decorated. Furniture and equipment is appropriately organised so that children can move around in a safe and calm manner. The toys, games and other equipment are clean, well maintained, suitable for their purpose and regularly checked so that children are able to play safely. Staff are warm and friendly and ensure children and parents feel welcome.

Children's safety is promoted well because staff complete daily premises checks to ensure that the areas used to care for the children are safe and suitable. The staff practise the emergency evacuation procedure with the children on a regular basis, ensuring they learn about what to do in the event of an emergency. Children are supervised by adults at all times and reminders, for example, about not running inside, help children to learn about keeping themselves and others safe. Access to the setting is suitably monitored and appropriate procedures for the collection of children by parents protects children from unknown adults.

Suitable policies and procedures relating to the safeguarding of children have been devised and include some information about the categories of abuse and the relevant contact details, should staff have need to report a child protection concern. These policies, and a copy of 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused', are easily accessible to the staff. However, staff

have identified the need for some formal training to extend their knowledge and understanding in this area.

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

The provision is good.

The children attending the club are relaxed, engaged and happy. They have formed good relationships with staff, who are warm and caring in their responses. The children are relaxed and purposeful in their play and enjoy the adult-prepared activities, such as Easter bonnets and egg hunts. Children develop their imagination through the use of the puppets in the puppet theatre as they perform a show for their friends. Staff spend time with the children and show interest in what they have to say, think and what they wish to do. Consequently, children are confident, busy and fully engaged.

Staff have a positive approach to planning and evaluating weekly activities for indoor and outdoor play, including craft activities such as the making of Valentine cards and Mother's Day photograph frames. Equipment and toys are rotated to provide a good variety for the children, and children are able to access their favourites from the storage trolley. Adult led games help children to participate in large group activities and table top games are available for quieter, small group activity. Children are provided with a range of new and familiar experiences that help to extend and consolidate their learning and life skills, for example, the keyboard, dressing up, puppets, small world play, snooker and table games including magnetic construction.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Individual children's needs are met appropriately. There are some resources in place that promote the wider world to positively raise children's awareness. The children are confident in their surroundings and staff enhance their feeling of self-worth well. Children are kind, considerate and thoughtful to each other within the club because the staff provide positive role models and encourage polite interaction.

There are clear boundaries, routines and safety rules in place that the children are aware of. Staff are consistent in their management of children's behaviour; consequently, children's behaviour is good. Children are friendly, confident and happy to inform visitors about their group.

Partnership with parents is sound. Parents are made to feel welcome because staff ensure that time is available to chat when they collect their children. Information about the club's weekly activities is displayed on the notice board alongside information of the current complaints procedure for parents to see. Clear information about the club is available to prospective parents in advance.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The premises and use of the space is appropriately set out to meet the needs and ages of the children attending. Children receive a balance of indoor and outdoor activities to enhance their skills and development.

The staff work well together and overall the management of the provision is organised. However, Ofsted has not been informed of the changes to persons on the committee and submission of their details to ensure that required vetting procedures are completed have not been undertaken, which is a breach of regulation. Staff are given opportunities to improve their knowledge by attending courses and workshops and they are committed to their own self-development to ensure a sound standard of care is provided for the children. They take all reasonable precautions to ensure the children's safety and welfare whilst they attend the club.

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 club agreed to develop an action plan to set out how staff training and qualification requirements would be met, as well as the development of staff's knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities and special needs issues. A development plan has been devised which sets out staff training. This includes training around equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice, which is currently being undertaken by the person in charge, and special needs training, which has been completed by a member of staff. Consequently, this provides staff with a wider knowledge and enhances the care provided for the children.

The club has ensured that confidentiality is now maintained in the accident records, public liability insurance is in place and all required records are now readily available and accessible on the premises for inspection at all times. This ensure regulation is complied with and children are better protected from potential harm.

### **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**

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):

- ensure that the contents of the first aid box are checked regularly and renewed once they reach their expiry date
- enhance staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues

- ensure that Ofsted is informed of any changes in the registered person.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)