

Shaw Rascals

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	962265
Inspection date	13 April 2007
Inspector	Carole, Jean Bell
Setting Address	St. Pauls Methodist Church, Rochdale Road, Shaw, Oldham, Lancashire, OL2 8AD
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Registered person	Shaw Rascals
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?

Shaw Rascals out of school and holiday club has been registered since 1994.

The club have use of two large rooms on the ground floor of St Paul's Methodist Church, in the centre of Shaw, a suburb of Oldham. A maximum of 48 children may attend at any one time.

The provision is open from 07.30 to 09.00 and 15.30 to 17.30, Monday to Friday in term time. The holiday club opens 07.30 to 17.30 Monday to Friday during school holidays, apart from bank holidays and Christmas week. All children share access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 83 children on roll attending a variety of sessions.

The group employs seven staff. Six of the staff hold appropriate childcare qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. They understand the importance of washing their hands at appropriate times, such as before meals and after playing outdoors. They are confident in their hygiene routines. Staff reinforce children's learning of good hygiene with thorough cleaning routines between activities. Tables are cleaned with anti-bacterial spray and floors are swept regularly. The staff work hard to maintain a healthy environment in an old building. A sick children and exclusion policy is in place to further protect children from infection.

Children benefit from a range of healthy and nutritious snacks such as breadsticks, fruit and toast. They are able to help themselves to drinks of water or milk throughout the session. The group have a healthy eating award from the local authority and the staff encourage parents to maintain children's healthy lifestyle with their packed lunch and birthday treats. Staff are aware of children's likes and dislikes and comply with their dietary requirements.

Children have good opportunities to enjoy and develop physical activities which contributes to a healthy lifestyle. They play outdoors every day and go for walks in their local environment or trips to the park whenever possible. They enjoy the physical challenge of activities such as skipping, football, balancing on stilts, ball games and the use of large equipment in the park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is given a high priority in a safe and secure environment. Risks are identified and minimised, both indoors and outside, by a range of safety measures such regular risk assessments, external doors locked when children are present and a signed visitors book. Children are developing a good awareness of keeping themselves safe through practicing emergency evacuations.

Children have lots of space to move freely around the playroom and select their play from a wide range of very good quality and age appropriate resources. They are well organised to allow children to make independent choices about their play and craft activities. This helps to improve their confidence and independence skills.

Children are well protected. All staff have received training in child protection and safeguarding and have a clear understanding of their responsibilities under the Children Act. They are aware of the types of abuse and signs to look for and the children's welfare is paramount.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and relaxed in the setting and staff greet them by name. Their confidence is promoted by positive relationships with staff and their understanding of children's individual needs and personalities. The staff give support where needed but allow children freedom to express themselves. Children are given good attention and staff ask questions and initiate discussion with them.

Children are confident and self-assured in their play and older children help and support younger ones and encourage them to join in activities such as outdoor games. Their independence skills and self-sufficiency are developed through easily accessible resources and equipment. Children experience a wide variety of play experiences with a high emphasis being given to fresh air and exercise. They are given praise, encouragement and support by a motivated staff group who provide interesting activities such as salt dough modelling, studying British garden birds and growing sunflower seeds and beans. They show interest in the world around them and their local community as they visit the library or walk to the park. Their communication skills are developed as they are stimulated in discussion by the staff.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are fully discussed with parents and are competently met by staff. However, the group does not have a nominated Special Educational Needs Coordinator (Senco) at present. Children gain awareness of their local environment and the diversity of the wider world from a variety of resources and activities and are encouraged to value others as individuals.

Children benefit from a warm and friendly relationship that staff have developed with them and their parents. Their needs are promoted through good systems being in place for sharing information with parents such as a notice board, parents questionnaire, informal feedback and a very detailed and comprehensive parents handbook.

Children are developing an understanding of responsible behaviour and are involved in setting the ground rules for the group. They learn to respect each other and show care for children younger than themselves. The staff speak positively to the children at all times and work hard to build their confidence and self-esteem. Their social skills and respect for people and property are developed through the use of good manners, sharing and encouragement from staff.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for. They benefit from the good organisation and care from an enthusiastic staff group who are well deployed to meet their needs. Their development is enhanced by the provision of stimulating activities and the support they receive. Children's freedom of choice is reinforced by a well-organised and set-out environment.

All required documentation is in place which contributes to the children's health, well-being and safety. Policies and procedures are clear, well-detailed and shared with parents.

Children are protected from harm by the staff's vigilance and supervision. They are trained in first aid and their service is enhanced by their commitment, self-evaluation and personal development.

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 agreed to provide parents with information on how to contact the regulator and to provide children with equipment which promotes positive images of

disability. Both these recommendations have been put into practice leading to a safer and more stimulating environment for children.

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 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):

- ensure that a nominated Senco is appointed.

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