

Oakdale After School Care Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256795
Inspection date	25 April 2007
Inspector	Anna Davies
Setting Address	Oakdale Avenue, Stanground, Peterborough, Cambs, PE2 8TD
Telephone number	01733 566237
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Registered person	Oakdale After School Care Club Committee
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?

Oakdale Out of School Club opened in 1998 and operates from two classrooms, in Oakdale Primary School, Stanground, Peterborough. Only one classroom is being used at present. A maximum of 48 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 08:00 to 08:50hrs and from 15:30 to 18:00hrs during term time and from 08:00 to 18:00hrs during holidays. All children have access to the school playground and field, which are not enclosed.

There are currently 67 children aged from four to fourteen years on roll. The setting currently supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those for whom English is an additional language.

The club employs eight staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted well by staff. They ensure that food is prepared in hygienic conditions. For example, staff wear aprons when preparing food and they ensure that tables are cleaned before children sit down to eat. Children follow good personal hygiene routines and wash their hands prior to eating. Children receive appropriate care if they are ill or have an accident as most of the staff hold a first aid qualification and the first aid box is checked regularly to ensure that the contents remain suitable.

Children are developing a good understanding of healthy eating. They are able to order their specific choice of meal from a given range of healthy options such as cheese on toast, pitta bread, jacket potatoes and pasta, or can choose to make their own 'super-snack sandwich' with a choice of fillings. A variety of fresh fruit is also offered on a daily basis such as apple, orange, kiwi or dried fruit. Food tasting sessions during a 'healthy eating week' encourage children to learn more about healthy eating as they enjoy tasting peppers, celery, cucumber and carrots. Children receive positive responses such as 'you are super healthy' from staff as they tell them that they have eaten lots of fruit. This effectively supports children as they develop their knowledge and understanding of a healthy lifestyle.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health. They are learning to develop control of their bodies through activities indoors and outdoors. They use the school field and playground on a regular basis to play football and tennis, use the 'trim trail' or throw frisbees to each other. If the weather is unfavourable, children are able to use the school hall where they organise their own teams to play bench-ball or host their own discos and party games. This good use of both the indoor and outdoor space ensures that children benefit from plenty of fresh air and exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe because staff have generally identified potential risks and taken action to reduce these. For example, staff escort children to the toilets so that they are not able to leave the premises unsupervised and staff are vigilant as they supervise the children on the school field, because it is not an enclosed area. These practices enhance children's safety at the club. Children are learning about keeping themselves and others safe as they regularly practise and discuss emergency evacuation procedures. However, there is not adequate fire detection and control equipment available within the classroom and kitchen area that the club predominantly uses. This compromises children's safety in the event of a fire.

Staff create a welcoming environment for children by displaying children's art work and ensuring that all resources are safely accessible for the children to make their own choices within their play. All children have access to a good range of toys and equipment, which are well maintained and suitable for their age.

Children's welfare is generally protected because staff have a sound knowledge of child protection and they understand their responsibilities in following correct procedures in the event of a concern. Some staff at the setting have attended training courses in this area to ensure that their knowledge is up to date and in line with current guidelines set out by the

Local Safeguarding Children's Board. However, the child protection policy lacks detail and does not reflect these guidelines which means that parents are not made fully aware of the procedures that the club will follow in the event that they have a concern about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the club, which puts them first. Staff respect the many different choices of activities that the children wish to do. For example, some children ask to go outside to watch a football match that is taking place on the field outside between their school and another school, whilst other children prefer to create structures using wooden bricks or complete jigsaw puzzles inside the club. Staff are flexible in their approach so that the children can enjoy all of these activities with appropriate supervision.

Children are motivated by the good variety of stimulating activities offered to them. For example, children design and create their own masks and robots using a wide range of art and craft resources such as wool, pipe cleaners, material and buttons. They are able to express their creativity through dance, dressing up in flowing, fabric skirts and twirling ribbons as they move. Staff effectively support children as they engage in activities, for example, they ask the children about their creations and ideas and take an interest in the children's family life as they discuss the excitement of seeing a family member return from a lengthy trip abroad. This gives children a good sense of belonging and makes them feel valued as an individual. Children enjoy many trips out into the wider community as they go ten-pin bowling, visit stately homes and local country parks and zoos.

All children spend their time at the club purposefully engaged. Children organise themselves, independently deciding how they wish to spend their time, and which resources they may need. Children's ability to decide how they spend their time at the club, enhances their enjoyment and develops their confidence and self-esteem. For example, whilst some children choose to play outside, others enjoy quieter activities after their school day such as playing computer games or using the dolls house and accessories. Children in the club have developed good relationships with each other. They speak courteously to each other and older children spontaneously encourage the younger children to share popular resources. Children respond warmly to the staff as they are asked about their school day and enjoy seeing the familiar face of their school teacher as he regularly visits the club to share tea with the children and challenges them to a game of snooker.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the strong partnership staff have developed with parents. Parents are kept well informed about the setting through the parent's notice board, informative newsletters and daily discussions with staff. These effective forms of communication ensure that children receive consistent care and that their individual needs are met. Parents comments and views are welcomed by the staff to ensure that the club strives to improve in order to always provide the service that parents and children want. Recent letters and cards sent by the parents show their high regard for the setting and the care that their children receive. Parents spend time in the club and often sit and play with their children when they come to collect them.

Children develop a good sense of belonging because they play an active role in the club. For example, they contribute their ideas for activities and the purchasing of new resources, to the 'wish fish' and discuss these at children's meetings. The children entered a local colouring competition and won a music-making resources pack for their club, which they intend to explore in the near future. Children's views are important to the club and a bright and colourful display illustrates clearly, what they enjoy about their club. There are effective systems in place to support children with learning difficulties and disabilities. For example, good staff support and appropriate knowledge and understanding, ensures that all children have their individual needs met.

Children's behaviour at the club is good and children of all ages play well together. To help children to think and learn about responsible behaviour, staff have encouraged the children to formulate their own rules of the club, which are on display as a permanent reminder. Appropriate behaviour strategies are used and staff use frequent praise to reinforce good behaviour. There is a behaviour management policy in place which generally supports the club's practice, however this lacks detail and is not completely in line with the National Standards.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by suitably qualified staff that have been appropriately vetted, due to effective recruitment procedures. Staff show commitment to developing the provision for the children who attend as they listen to parent's and children's views about ways to further improve and attend regular training courses to ensure that their knowledge is up to date. However, some policies and fire-safety procedures are not routinely reassessed to ensure that they are in line with current guidelines. This is not completely effective in underpinning the club's general good practice and promoting children's safety.

The staff's organisation of space and resources creates a fun environment for the children, which ensures that they enjoy their time at the club. Children's ability to play an active role in the provision greatly increases their enjoyment. All records relating to children and staff are treated confidentially. They are stored in a secure filing cabinet, which only staff have access to. Overall the provision meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to develop and implement an action plan that set out how supervisors will achieve a level three qualification. Staff changes since the last inspection have resulted in the appointment of both a manager and deputy manager who both hold appropriate level three qualifications. This ensures that children are cared for by appropriately qualified staff. The provider was asked to keep a written record, signed by parents, of accidents occurring on the premises. A sound system for recording accidents and sharing them with parents, is now in place and used appropriately. This suitably protects children's safety and well-being. The provider was also asked to ensure the security of the premises, so that children cannot leave them unsupervised, when visiting the toilets. Children now always ask to go to

the toilet and are escorted to and from the toilets by a member of staff. This is effective in ensuring the continued safety of the 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 adequate fire detection and control equipment are readily available in accordance with any recommendations made by the Fire Safety Officer
- review and update the child protection policy so that it reflects the Local Safeguarding Children's Board guidelines. Update the behaviour management policy to ensure that it is in line with the National Standards.

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