

Quackers Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	127475
Inspection date	19 February 2008
Inspector	Linda Patricia Coccia
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Registered person	Quackers Out of School Club
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?

Quackers Out of School Activity Club opened in 1996 and operates from two rooms in a building in the grounds of North Borough Junior School. It is situated in the town of Maidstone, Kent. A maximum of 40 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 08.30 until 18.00 during all school holidays and inset days. It also operates an after school provision during school term time between the hours of 15.00 until 18.00 each week night. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 90 children aged from four years to fourteen years on roll. Children come from a local catchment area. The club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The club employs 11 staff of whom seven, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a good range of experiences, which help to promote their knowledge and understanding of good health issues. For example, they are encouraged to be independent with routine self help skills and are reminded about having consideration for others by flushing toilets after they have used them and disposing of paper towels thoughtfully. Children are protected from cross infection. Children also benefit from good procedures which ensure they are taken care of if they have an accident or need medication. For instance, accidents are well recorded and staff help children to self medicate when necessary. Children also receive reminders about keeping wounds, such as grazed knees, clean to avoid infection. The provider frequently uses the accident book to evaluate risks and hazards to ensure children are kept safe. Children's health is promoted.

Children can purchase delicious cakes and cookies, which are cooked on the premises, at snack time. They also have the option not to purchase food and just have a biscuit provided by the club. Parents are involved in providing their children's food as they send in packed lunch boxes. These are stored in an easily accessible area, out of direct sunlight. In summer months, staff remind parents about providing healthy food and to include freezer packs in them which further contributes to children eating healthily. The after school children are adept at helping staff to provide hot snacks, such as toast, with a variety of choices of toppings. Good procedures are used by staff to ensure children's individual needs are catered for, such as ensuring food allergies are not triggered by making children aware that they must not share food. All staff are aware of those children with allergies by means of a confidential list displayed inside a kitchen cupboard door. Children are beginning to have an awareness of healthy eating issues.

Children use a good selection of play areas. They use the school playgrounds, well kept grassed areas, and a shady paved area. During good weather the children are outdoors a lot. They participate in a good variety of energetic, outdoor physical play activities. They play exciting team games with parachutes and other equipment, or split into smaller groups for more age appropriate games. For example, older children may play football whilst younger ones participate in activities with staff. Staff obtain written permission from parents for children to go on walks to local areas, such as parks or woodlands. Children are keen to participate in outdoor activities and whoop and shout with glee as their team score. They really enjoy the physical activities offered.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play within an organised, safe environment and can move freely between the various play areas. Staff carry out effective daily risk assessments to ensure potential hazards are identified and reduced. Children are also made aware of hazards and risks to themselves and others around them. They are able to help keep themselves safe. Children use clean, well maintained toys which are suitable for their age group. An emergency evacuation plan is displayed and children practise it regularly. The drills are recorded. Children are able to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

There are well written, clear, concise procedures for dealing with child protection issues which help keep children safe. The written information is shared with parents, which ensures they

have a good understanding of the group's role in protecting children. Children's well being is promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children participate in a variety of activities which allow them to have a good time at the group. They make choices about the toys and activities they use. They have easy access to craft activities, select books on a variety of different subjects, which gives them ideas for other activities, and can rest or participate in physical activities depending on their moods. Photographs of children enjoying the activities are displayed around the rooms. For example, participating in Halloween games and having their faces painted, playing in the paddling pool during hot weather and investigating mini-beasts at the local woodland park. Children enjoy their play.

Children and staff interact very well. Staff get fully involved with children such as playing tag or helping children to keep score in team games. Children laugh and joke with staff, as well as having meaningful discussions with them about issues which concern the running of the group, such as creating a wish list for toys and games. Children develop caring relationships with staff.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children see some good images of equality on a daily basis through the variety of toys and books which are available. They are encouraged to participate in all activities, regardless of gender or disability. They are also able to learn from each other as children from a variety of different backgrounds attend. The setting has a special educational needs co-ordinator and effective arrangements to care for children who may have learning difficulties or disabilities. Written policies are concise and informative, but do not include any legislative references. Children's individual needs are met.

Children are well behaved and are generally thoughtful towards each other. Staff offer praise to children as they help staff and show concern for each other. A good behaviour management strategy is in place which enables children to consider their behaviour through a series of reminders, warnings and, occasionally, meetings with parents. The club policy of including children in decisions about rules and sanctions gives children choices about their behaviour. Children build self-esteem and play within well defined boundaries.

Children and their parents receive a warm welcome from staff as they enter the premises. Parents receive information about the running of the group and have access to the club's policies and procedures. However, some of the details about the registering body in the parents' welcome information is incorrect. Parents are also involved in the numerous booking in and out routines and receive verbal information about their child's well being at the end of the day. Parents are made very aware of the procedures used to walk their children to and from school each day. Parents have the responsibility to advise the group if children are not attending school or if other arrangements are made. For example, their child is to go home with a friend for tea. Children benefit from the provider and their parents working together in partnership.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The scheme display their registration document. The provider ensures that the staff are suitable to work with the children through a robust recruitment and vetting procedure. All staff hold Criminal Record Bureau checks and staff are regularly monitored and supervised. Staff hold a good range of appropriate childcare qualifications which enable them to understand and take account of the needs of ages of children attending and ensure a good range of activities are provided. Children benefit from the staff's expertise and knowledge.

The club has all regulatory paperwork in place. Their lost and uncollected child policies are concise and well thought out. The attendance record sheets are completed as children arrive and depart but there is some inconsistency regarding the recording of their actual arrival and departure times. Children's records are well maintained, are confidential and stored appropriately. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, several recommendations were raised to improve the provision. These were; to ensure a procedure to be followed in the event of a child being lost is added to the policy for uncollected children; to devise and make available to parents, a written statement on special needs which is consistent with current legislation and guidance; to ensure that the written statement on the procedure to be followed if parents have a complaint, includes the address and telephone number of the regulator; to up-date the equal opportunities policy to ensure that it is consistent with current legislation and guidance; to obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children and ensure that any medicine given to children is recorded clearly; and finally, to ensure that the child protection procedure for the club complies with local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

The provider has reviewed policies and procedures and has implemented most elements of the recommendations. Some minor adjustments and inclusions to the parents information are still being considered and remain as a recommendation for this inspection. The provider has ensured that at least one member of staff has attended the Local Safeguarding Children Board training and has passed the information onto other staff. The written policy has been updated.

The provider also received a number of actions. Namely, that the water temperature will be safe, antiseptic is not used without permission, that necessary consents are obtained before administering any medications, and the fire exit route is clear at all times. The provider has addressed all the actions. Children's safety and well-being is now fully promoted.

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 all written information shared with parents is correct and contains appropriate references
- ensure consistency in recording the children's arrival and departure times in the attendance record

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