

Little Acorns & Penketh Community Primary After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY357977
Inspection date	28 April 2008
Inspector	Susan Patricia Birkenhead
Setting Address	Penketh Community Primary School, Coniston Avenue, Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2QY
Telephone number	01925 790 500
E-mail	byford43@tiscali.co.uk
Registered person	Little Acorns Children's 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little Acorns & Penketh Community Primary After School Club is one of two provisions owned and managed by Little Acorns Children's Day Nursery Ltd. It opened in 2007 and operates from the resource room, junior corridor, computer room and main hall within Penketh Community Primary School, Warrington in Cheshire. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 15.15 to 18.00, term time only. All children share access to the school grounds for outdoor play.

There are 36 children from four to under eight on roll. The club is open to children from Penketh Community Primary School only. There are no children currently on roll who have learning difficulties or disabilities.

The club employs six members of staff including the manager who is also the registered person. Of these, four hold appropriate qualifications in early years and the remaining staff are unqualified.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection. Staff act as good role models in reducing the risk of cross infection, as they wear gloves when serving food and clean surfaces with anti bacterial spray. A detailed sick policy is in place, which excludes children who are ill and parents are contacted if children should become unwell whilst at the club. Children take responsibility for their personal hygiene as they wash their hands before snack time. They confidently explain that they do this 'because the germs you get on your hands can be passed on and make you sick'. A good supply of materials are in place for the treating of minor injuries and a member of staff who is qualified in paediatric first aid is present during the hours of operation, therefore positively protecting children's welfare. Systems in place for the recording of accidents and medication ensure the necessary detail is recorded.

Children clearly enjoy the wide range of healthy snacks on offer, which are outlined in the weekly menu on display, from which they can choose. These are healthy, varied daily and contribute to their good health. Good systems are in place to record children's health and dietary needs, which staff consider when preparing snacks. Meal times are relaxed, social occasions, where children sit together with the staff and engage in conversation. Children confidently discuss items they believe to be healthy and those which are less healthy. Drinks are routinely available at snack time and at other times they have independent access to filtered water from the dispenser. This means children remain hydrated throughout their stay.

Children have regular daily access to the extensive outdoor play areas where they enjoy taking part in numerous activities, to promote their physical development and skills well. They take part in both staff and children initiated games, such as basket ball, football and use the parachute. They access the fixed climbing apparatus and select from the wide range of resources independently. Their physical development is further promoted indoors because children can play interactive computer games, take part in the weekly dance sessions or develop their coordination when using the electronic drum kit.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by staff in a familiar environment within the school they attend daily. They know the routine and confidently make their way to the agreed meeting place at the end of their school day. Designated areas of the school are accessible to the club, however these are used flexibly to meet the demands of the school. This means that access to the school hall is restricted on some days if used by the school at the end of the school day. As a result areas cannot be set up before the children's arrival and space to display children's art work is not accessible. The very small notice board is used to display some information, such as the registration certificate, planning and the menu.

Children have access to a wide range of play materials both indoors and outdoors, supported well by the loan of some school resources. As a result children's interests and enjoyment are appropriately fostered. Children can select items of their choice from the central store when helping staff to set up the room on arrival. Staff check the safety of play materials during children's play and when resources are tidied away removing items that pose a risk.

Children stay safe in the main because of the appropriate procedures in place. These include the use of equipment, such as 'finger safe guards' fitted to the doors and securing the front entrance. Children learn how to keep themselves safe because the staff are efficient in explaining potential hazards and the consequences of their actions. For example, they discuss 'stranger danger', recall the fire evacuation they practise, and documents in place record the relevant information. Children respect the unwritten rules in place for using the climbing apparatus outdoors in wet weather and staff establish boundaries with them. However, the school provides extended services at the end of the school day, which means the gates within the outdoor area where children play are not secure. Although the appropriate staffing ratios are deployed, the risk assessment does not reflect how these identified risks are minimised.

Children's welfare is positively safeguarded because some of the staff complete the necessary child protection training. They clearly demonstrate through discussion the indicators of abuse and the procedures followed should they have concerns about a child in their care. The detail in the written policy contains the necessary information, which is shared with all staff during their induction.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well due to the familiar environment and the positive relationships they develop with the staff. They engage in a variety of activities and opportunities through play and show interest in all they do. For example, they access computer programmes of their choice using their password, and share their findings with others. Children use the outdoor area with enthusiasm where they organise football games, shoot the basket ball and develop their skills using the hoops. Indoors they access games to play with staff, or sit quietly to complete more challenging games on their own. Children express themselves creatively because a range of craft materials are freely available. For example, children choose to make a spider using pipe cleaners and paper, or colour pictures of their choice. The provision of the electronic drum kit and head phones provides an interesting opportunity for children to develop their musical skills, therefore, aspects to promote all areas of their development are accessible. Children have fun, share laughter and excitement and enjoy the company of other children. They recall aspects of the club they particularly enjoy and refer to the club as 'excellent and amazing'.

Children's play and activities are approached flexibly. The written planning in place refers to the different play materials accessible on different evenings, which is approached with flexibility. Greater structure is given to activities when recognising different times of the year, such as Christmas, Easter by making cards and children make paper dragons when celebrating Chinese New Year. The staff promote an environment where children can relax and enjoy their time following their busy school day. As a result, children are happy to make decisions for themselves and select alternative items they find interesting.

Staff provide appropriate support to children by involving themselves in their play and activities. For example, staff join in the basket ball activities and instigate group games such as 'dodge'. They respond to children's requests for assistance when using the computers and demonstrate their musical talent as they play the piano together. As a result, children show respect for the adults who care for them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are recorded in detail on the registration forms which are accessible to the staff. This enables them to provide appropriate care for the children to ensure their needs are met. They are treated with equal concern and access play opportunities without stereotyping, for example, all children take part in the games of football and the dance sessions weekly, irrespective of their gender. Children's understanding of diversity is suitably promoted through the completion of associated art and crafts when celebrating festivals and the resources available which promote positive images. The manager and her staff are happy to support children with learning difficulties or disabilities, however, there are currently none on roll.

Staff manage children's behaviour using consistent approaches outlined in the detailed policy, which is supported by the additional policy regarding bullying. The methods staff use are appropriate for the ages and developmental stages of the children cared for. These include reasoning, intervention and sitting children out of play to enable them to reflect on their behaviour. As a result children behave well, play cooperatively and develop respect for staff and other children. Staff regularly praise the children's achievements and good behaviour which contributes to the building of their self-esteem.

Positive relationships develop with parent's who receive verbal feedback at the end of the day to keep them informed of their child's well-being. Parents take time to share their observations and use words, such as 'fantastic' to describe the club and value the support they receive. They talk about their children's care positively and some children do not want to leave when parents arrive to collect them because they enjoy their time. Parents receive a registration form and a copy of the terms and conditions initially. They are made aware of the club's policies, outlining the procedures they follow, which are accessible for them to read on request. On occasions they receive newsletters which children contribute to. Children are looked after according to their parents' wishes and a good level of consent to certain aspects of their care are documented, for example, the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment, the taking of photographs and outings. As a result of these practices children's welfare is further safeguarded. A professional system and appropriate procedures are established for the management and recording of complaints, which can be shared with parents on request.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

A robust recruitment and selection procedure is followed to ensure children are cared for by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Staff files contain a wealth of information regarding their employment including Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks, medical suitability, personal information and qualifications. This means all staff employed have completed the necessary clearance. Adults who have not gone through such clearance do not have unsupervised access to children, which staff confirm through discussion. Newly appointed staff go through a detailed induction and all staff complete annual appraisals. The manager of the setting is available to work in the club on two evenings throughout the week. As a result different staff that hold a relevant qualification and have completed supervisory training are employed as named deputies to cover in her absence. However, it is not clear from the attendance register because the staff who are named deputy for each evening, are not included.

Qualified and unqualified staff make up the required staffing ratio each evening and during the inspection the qualification criteria was met due to the small number of children in

attendance. The majority of the staff employed work at the nursery, also owned by the registered provider, can access training which includes child protection, food hygiene, Makaton and health and safety.

All legally required documentation, which contributes to the children's health, safety and well-being is in generally in place. It is reviewed regularly, stored securely and systems in place enable confidentiality to be respected. However, the system for recording the staff and children's attendance daily showing their hours of attendance lacks necessary detail. For example, parents sign their children out of the club on collection and clearly reflect the time they leave the setting. However, the staff hours of attendance and the children's times of arrival are not included in the daily register. As a result the hours of attendance are not fully reflected which constitutes a breach in the National Standards.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- review and develop the risk assessment to outline how risks to children are minimised when playing outdoors
- review current practises to ensure there is a system for registering children and staff attendance on a daily basis, showing their hours of attendance
- develop a system to reflect the named deputy who is able to take charge in the absence of the manager.

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