

Mortimer Out Of School Care & Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312579
Inspection date	09 April 2008
Inspector	Lynne Pope
Setting Address	Mortimer Community Association, Reading Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 4UG
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Registered person	Mortimer Out of School Care and Playgroup
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Sessional 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?

Mortimer Out of School Club and Playgroup is run by a management committee. It opened in 1993 and operates from three rooms within Mortimer Road Community Centre. The community centre is situated in the grounds of Mortimer Secondary School in South Shields. A maximum of 24 children may attend the playgroup and a maximum of 100 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The playgroup is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday during term time from 09.05 until 11.30. The out of school club is open during term time from 08.00 until 09.00 and from 15.00 until 18.00. During school holidays it is open from 08.00 until 18.00.

There are currently 16 children aged from two and half to five years on roll in the playgroup. There are currently 40 children aged from four years to eight years on roll in the out of school club. Children come from a wide catchment area. The playgroup and out of school club supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The playgroup employs three staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications.

The out of school employs six staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications and one member of staff is working towards a qualification. The out of school has achieved the '4Children Aiming High' award and is a member of the local out of school club network .

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. In the playgroup and out of school they are kept safe from the spread of infection through the sickness policy being shared with parents. They have a confident understanding of good hygiene practises through well planned routines. They ensure that they have washed their hands before snack and meal times supported appropriately by staff. Their well being is enhanced by accessing a healthy diet. Meals are freshly prepared on the premises for children in the out of school. They enjoy the sociable occasion of sitting together and chatting to each other as they eat their meal. Playgroup children enjoy a snack where they develop their independence as they pass out the cups and biscuits and help to clear away afterwards.

All children enthusiastically take an active part in physical exercise learning about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle. They have direct access to an outdoor area where young children can use ride on toys and climbing equipment. Ball games are popular and out of school children are particularly eager to take part in team games in the hall. Children are able to rest or be active as they need.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

All children have access to a well organised spacious environment. The playrooms are made welcoming with displays of children's art work, giving them ownership of the environment. Children use an extensive range of safe, well maintained toys and equipment suitable to the age and stage of their development. Resources are set out before the start of each session. Children make their own choices about what activity they would like to do, therefore developing their independence.

All children are cared for in a very secure environment and are well protected by the procedures in place. Visitors to the building are monitored. A visual daily risk assessment ensures children's safety in the areas that they use. Comprehensive risk assessments are carried out for any outings that the out of school children take part in. They learn safety routines within the building by taking part in fire evacuations and effective procedures are in place for the delivery and collection of children from school. Written parental consent is in place for out of school children to use transport during term time. However, it is not in place for use of transport during school holidays.

The provision has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. Staff have a good understanding of the procedures they would follow should they have a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

All children experience a varied range of planned activities and spontaneous events, which contribute to their development inside and outside the provision. Staff provide a calm, consistent environment where children are happy and settled. The environment is set up so that children can make their own choices about what they do. They are happily occupied playing games with each other, drawing, using stencils and colouring in. The snooker table is popular as they take turns to have a game. The majority of children enjoy craft activities where they have access to a good range of resources which stimulates their imagination. For example, they are given cardboard heart shaped boxes which they paint and stick on various materials.

Good levels of self-esteem and confidence are gained as children receive consistent support from staff. Staff join in with children's play interacting well where needed. Out of school activities are planned on a weekly basis, based on a theme which is flexible according to what children like to do. Playgroup staff plan around the 'Early learning goals' and carry out observations during activities of children progress. This is recorded on a development record which helps staff to plan for the next step in play and learning. However, the written plan does not identify the area of learning that is being focused on.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children develop a positive attitude towards others and gain a good understanding about the wider world. They have access to resources that reflect positive images, such as disability and culture. During school holidays visitors are invited in, such as African dancers and drummers. Links are developed with other out of school clubs who are invited to join in with the activities. Staff are calm and consistent in their approach to behaviour management. They talk to children about unwanted behaviour and use praise to encourage good behaviour. Children respond well and are well behaved. They are learning to cooperate well together as they play team games and board games.

Positive relationships are developed with parents and carers. They receive an information booklet when their child starts at either provision which explains the policies and procedures. A notice board keeps them up to date with any new information and newsletters are periodically sent out. Playgroup parents and carers can access their child's development file at any time. All parents and carers are kept up to date through daily verbal feedback.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. Recruitment procedures ensure that children are cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. The premises are organised well, allowing all children to select their own resources and to take part safely.

The required policies and procedures are in place and are shared with parents and carers. Records are accurate and up to date. A good balance is maintained between physical exercise and rest periods. Staff are enthusiastic and committed ensuring that children's time is fulfilling and productive. In practise, they work towards keeping children healthy and safeguard their welfare.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection three actions were raised. The provider has ensured that the safeguarding children policy has been updated to include procedures in the event of an allegation being made against staff. Ofsted were informed of the change in playgroup manager and appropriate checks have been carried out to ensure that she is suitable for her role.

Complaints since the last inspection

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.

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 QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

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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):

- update the written consent for children to take part in activities off the premises so that it include use of transport in the out of school for full day care
- develop the activity plan further for the playgroup by highlighting what area of learning is being covered.

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