



Children's Choice out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	218309
Inspection date	11 May 2005
Inspector	Rosemary Linda Tomkins
Setting Address	Moat Hall Primary School, Johns Lane, Great Wyrley, Walsall, West Midlands
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Registered person	Yvonne Greenaway
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?

Children's Choice Out of School Club opened in 1995. It operates from four rooms in Moat Hall Primary School, Great Wyrley, South Staffordshire. A maximum 48 children may attend at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 08:00 to 09:00 and 15:20 to 17:45 during school term times. The play scheme club opens each weekday for three weeks during the Summer school holidays and February and October half-terms from 08:00 to 17:45. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor area

There are currently 150 children from 4 to 12 years on roll. Children attend from the

school and local community. The club supports a number of children with special needs, and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs eleven staff. Four of the staff, including the manager have appropriate early years qualifications. Two staff are working towards level 2 and 3 qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children show a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe and healthy due to the support from staff who have a secure knowledge of the health and hygiene procedures. Children are confident and independent with their personal hygiene. They know, for example, that it, 'prevents germs spreading' when they wash their hands before eating. They enjoy physical exercise and learn about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle as they choose free-play and organised activities in the school playground and walks to the village centre.

Children understand the importance of taking regular drinks as a way to maintain their health and wearing hats whilst playing outside during warm weather. Due to staff guidance children are gaining a strong understanding of the value of good nutrition as they select snack options of fruit and cereals.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are secure and confident in the well-organised club environment. Staff involve the children in devising and practising fire and evacuation procedures. This helps children to be responsible for their own safety.

Staff have identified potential risks and dangers, for example restricting access to the club through an alarmed rear door and use of two-way radios. This allows staff to monitor all arrivals and departures and keep the children safe both outside and inside the building.

Children use a wide range of safe, good quality resources which they are able to select from low level storage containers. Staff encourage children to take responsibility for using equipment safely, monitoring the condition and putting items away.

Staff have a good understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits particularly in the outside area. This allows children to learn to be responsible for their own safety. Children are well protected. The manager is responsible for child protection and ensures procedures are up to date and that staff understand their responsibilities. However, although there is a record of existing

injuries it is not signed by parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic and self-assured in the club's welcoming environment. They enjoy their time at the club where they can relax or be active in accordance with their needs and interests.

There is a varied range of well-maintained resources which are used well to interest children and develop their learning. Many children take an active part in playground games while others select quieter activities, such as construction or art and craft. They are well supported by the staff who are skilled at encouraging children to extend their experiences and are very involved in listening and talking to them. Children enjoy including the staff in their play and conversations, such as group skipping and expressing their feelings about their school day.

Staff evaluate the activities every week, they involve the children in regular meetings and record their views. This ensures the children take part in activities that offer suitable challenge and promote their well-being and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enjoy mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. They develop self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and make choices and decisions.

Children are well behaved. They know what is expected of them because they discuss and help to write the club's behaviour rules. Staff talk to the younger children regularly to ensure they understand the behaviour boundaries. Children with special needs integrate well within the group and all children are able to participate fully. Children respect and understand that some children need extra help and willingly support those who do.

Children have opportunities to learn about each other and the world around them through planned activities, for example holding a Japanese festival and walks in the local community.

Relationships with parents are friendly. Staff provide a notice board and newsletters to keep parents informed of operational changes and activities. Staff make parents welcome and encourage them to take part in outings with their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the quality of organisation and good leadership and management. The registered person uses effective recruitment and vetting procedures. Staff regularly attend training courses to update and increase their skills. The induction programme and good teamwork make sure all staff work together well to promote children's health, enjoyment and achievement. Staff work to agreed procedures which are regularly discussed and updated.

The premises are well organised. Indoor and outdoor space is utilized to maximise play opportunities for children. Most required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and is regularly reviewed. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous inspection recommended that the out of school club provided a range of activities during the registration period and that the times of arrival and departure of the children were recorded.

The staff have now re-organised resources into activity boxes and store them at low level to enable children to self-select on arrival. Children now write their times of arrival onto a displayed list on the wall and parents are responsible for writing the time of their children's departure when collected. In addition, staff have devised a tracking procedure for children and staff whereby children take responsibility for placing their own name labels onto notice boards. The boards relate to the various rooms and the outside area. This enables staff, parents and children to locate each other at a glance.

The security of the club has also been reviewed. The children and parents now access the premises through a rear door which is alarmed and remains locked. Staff are now able to monitor all arrivals and departures to ensure children's safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- make sure parents sign the existing injury record.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk