



Auckland Out Of School Care

Inspection report for early years provision

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Registered person	Auckland Youth & Community Centre
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care, Crèche

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?

Auckland Out Of School Care has been registered since May 2001. It operates from community premises, in Bishop Auckland. The group has use of two out-of-school rooms, a sports-hall, a canteen area, adjoining kitchen facilities, an office and toilet facilities. The club provides care for children from the local community and the wider geographical area. The group opens each week day, during term-time, from 15.00 until 18.00 and from 08.00 until 18.00, during school holiday periods.

The setting is registered to provide out-of-school care for 50 children, aged from 3 to under 8 years old, when all rooms are available, or 30 children if use of some rooms

is restricted. They are also registered to provide crèche care for a maximum of 10 children. There are presently 30 children on-roll. Procedures are in place to support children with special needs.

Four members of staff work with the children. All hold recognised childcare or play-work qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is suitably addressed through a range of satisfactory policies and procedures within the group. For example, there are clear exclusion periods for children who have a contagious disease and appropriate arrangements for children who take ill whilst at the club. Children's accidents are satisfactorily recorded, although entries are not always signed by parents and confidentiality is not effectively maintained. Children are learning to keep themselves healthy. They understand the importance of washing their hands before eating or after using the bathroom to remove germs.

Children receive regular drinks and a variety of meals and snacks, suited to their individual dietary needs. They also bring packed lunches. However, perishable foodstuffs are not adequately stored to ensure children's health. Children sit together at mealtimes and enjoy them as good social occasions. They discuss with the staff which foods that they enjoy eating when they are considering future menu plans.

Children have regular opportunities for energetic play activities. For example, they enjoy indoor cricket, basketball, football and team-games in the sports hall. There are daily opportunities for children to engage in quiet activities, but arrangements do not always allow children to rest without being disturbed by others.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure, child-friendly environment. Staff demonstrate sound arrangements for maintaining children's safety throughout the session. For example, they take positive steps to minimise potential risks and use appropriate safety equipment as required. Children are learning to keep themselves safe, for example, by walking around carefully and using equipment safely within the setting or by using appropriate road safety practices when on outings. Children and staff practise regular fire drills and they demonstrate a sound understanding of action to take in an emergency. Premises are suitably organised so children can move around freely and select toys and resources independently, from tables, shelves or stacking boxes which are stored at child height.

Children's wellbeing is given careful consideration in matters of child protection. Staff demonstrate a sound understanding of issues and have clear plans and procedures

in place to act promptly and sensitively should they have concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy regular, sessional arrangements. As a result, they demonstrate a sound sense of routine and know what is expected of them. All appear to be happy and settled within the group and they are forming warm relationships with staff and peers. They are allowed to develop at their own pace, yet given appropriate help and support, when required. Most are respectful towards staff and are kind and helpful towards each other.

Children enjoy a broad range of resources and activities that provide interest and variety, whilst supporting their individual needs. For example, many enjoy creative and imaginative play; making various hats and crowns, which they use to play as kings, queens and knights. Others use construction resources skilfully, enjoy using the play station or playing team-games in the hall. Many play happily together, in pairs or in small groups, chatting about significant events or things that interest them. Children also enjoy planned outings during school holiday periods. For example, they have been to the beach, tenpin bowling and to the pantomime. Activities are successfully enabling children to learn new skills across all areas of their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a warm and friendly atmosphere in which they are valued individually. Staff are adequately aware of children's individual requirements, including any special needs. All children are suitably included and have appropriate support. They freely access the full range of toys, resources and activities as gender issues are sufficiently promoted in the setting. Children have some opportunities to learn about other cultures, religions and the wider world, although activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice are limited.

Children have good opportunities to contribute towards the running of the group. For example, they have identified rules for the setting and they put forward suggestions for outings or meals. They are presently completing questionnaires about how well the club meets their needs, what they enjoy and ideas for further improvements. All children appear to be happy and settled within the group.

Most children are polite, well mannered and manage their behaviour well. Staff set and reinforce appropriate boundaries, in a sensitive manner. They provide children with appropriate support, purposeful praise and encouragement. As a result, children are developing confidence and high self-esteem. They are kind, helpful and show respect and consideration for others.

Staff value sound working relationships with parents. Children's personal records are

appropriately used to share information about their individual needs, interests or special requirements. Parents receive introductory information about the setting and have adequate opportunities to read the group policy statements. As a result, they and their children are familiar with daily routines and practices within the group. Informal verbal updates and samples of children's work keep parents suitably informed of what children have enjoyed doing and reassures parents about the quality of care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Daily routines are suitably planned and allow for flexibility, depending on child-led activities and children's individual needs. Children benefit from a consistent team of staff, who demonstrate a sound commitment to the group. Suitable recruitment, vetting and induction procedures ensure that staff are appropriately qualified and experienced for their individual roles. Children have appropriate support and attention because management ensure that there are sufficient staff on duty and that they are suitably deployed. However, children's care may be compromised because there is no system for closely monitoring the movement of children and staff as they access activities in different rooms within the setting.

Children's, staff's and visitor's attendance is suitably recorded. Children's personal files are appropriately used to record their personal details along with other relevant information. However, children's individual needs and wellbeing may be compromised because present documentation systems are not always well organised, up-to-date, or readily available for inspection. Information regarding the children is appropriately shared with parents to keep them suitably informed about their child's achievements and progress; thus contributing to children's continuity of care.

Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

As a result of the last inspection, the registered provider agreed to address several recommendations that were identified as areas for improvement.

Children's care arrangements have improved as a result of the out-of-school club now having sole use of individual rooms when other groups are using the centre. Children now have comfortable areas where they can relax, although they continue to be disturbed by other children. Space is better organised so children are able to access a range of toys and equipment easily and independently. Some multicultural resources have been purchased, but activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice continue to be limited.

Children's care and supervision has improved because the registered provider ensures that all staff are suitably vetted to work with children and that Ofsted are appropriately notified of significant changes. Several policy statements have been

reviewed and updated to clearly identify sound procedures relating to childcare arrangements. Children's safety has also been improved. For example, adequate heater covers and socket covers are in now place and fire drills are regularly practised with staff and children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration. 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):

- ensure perishable foodstuffs are suitably stored to minimise potential health risks
- devise and implement systems for monitoring children's movements around the premises and for ensuring children are adequately supervised at all times
- organise space so that children have a quiet area with appropriate furniture where they can rest safely without disturbance
- ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are up to date, readily accessible and available for inspection, at all times.

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