



Silver Fox Care Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY297684
Inspection date	20 October 2005
Inspector	Rosemary Linda Tomkins
Setting Address	Ravensmead School, Chapel Street, Bignall End, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST7 8QD
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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?

Silver Fox Care Club opened in 2005 and operates from the main hall and three classrooms in Ravensmead School in Bignall End, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. A maximum of 40 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday during school term times from 07.30 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 18.00 and 07.30 to 18.00 during school holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 34 children aged from 3 to 10 years on roll. Children come from the local area and Newcastle. The club currently supports children with special

educational needs, and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs four staff. Two of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two staff are working towards an NVQ Level 3 qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children understand how to keep themselves healthy. Children wash their hands after visiting the toilet and understand how germs spread. Staff ensure children wash their hands before snacks. Children understand that food will therefore not be contaminated and cause the spread of infection.

Three members of staff hold current first aid certificates. This means that staff have sufficient knowledge and ability to ensure children receive appropriate medical treatment in the event of an accident both inside the club and on outings. Individual medication records are maintained to ensure staff are aware of children's health needs. Written parental permission for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice is in place. This means that children will receive prompt medical attention in the event of a medical emergency.

Children are able to ask for fresh drinking water throughout the sessions and are provided with sugar-free diluted fruit juice and biscuits. Staff encourage children to eat fresh fruit and discuss a healthy lifestyle with the children as part of planned activities. This ensures children understand how to keep themselves healthy.

The club has use of the school playground and clear space within the hall where children enjoy physical exercise and open space on a regular basis.

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. Children understand how to keep each other safe because staff explain safety rules. Staff ensure that children practise the emergency evacuation procedures on a regular basis. This means that children are safe in an emergency situation.

Staff have identified potential risks and dangers and check the premises each session. For example, making sure the entrance door remains locked and grouping the children between the hall and outside area which allows staff to supervise and observe children at all times. This ensures children are safe both outside and inside the building.

Children use a good range of safe, good quality resources which they are able to

choose from low-level shelves in a large storage cupboard. Staff encourage children to take responsibility for using equipment safely, monitoring condition and putting away. Children understand how to use equipment safely because staff explain clearly before each activity.

Staff have a good understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits particularly when children arrive and leave the club. However, the recently updated policy for uncollected children is not available to staff and parents. Children understand that they must wait to be collected by parents and staff must sign the children in and out. This allows children to learn to be responsible for their own safety and take an active part in procedures.

Children are well protected. The person in charge is responsible for child protection and ensures procedures are up to date. Staff fully understand their responsibility to follow procedures and protect children in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic and self-assured in the play scheme, particularly when playing board and imaginative games together. Children are excited and enjoy their time at the club where they meet new friends and develop new skills. They relate well to staff and each other and play an active part in planning and developing activities. For example, negotiating which outside game to play.

Children are supported by the staff who encourage children to extend their experiences and are involved in listening and talking to them. All children enjoy choosing from a range of art materials to create puppets and pictures to display on the wall. Children include the staff in their play and conversations particularly during quiet indoor activities, such as snack time and floor games.

Summer outings include visits to the ice rink, cinema and restaurants. This promotes children's sense of adventure as they discover new places and experiences. The choice of activity-based outings ensures children can select to suit their age and personal preferences. Children are supported at all times during outings which enhances their enjoyment by enabling them to discuss their new experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. They increase self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and join in with planning. Children are offered a choice of activity and discuss their individual needs and preferences with staff. Staff ensure they know every child's likes and dislikes and adjust activities and grouping of children to suit, for example taking turns to use the television monitor to play a driving game. Children discover the wider world as they enjoy using resources with positive images of minority groups.

Children are well behaved. They know what is expected of them because they discuss the rules with staff and each other. Staff are very good role models and take every opportunity to thank children for their help and good behaviour. They talk to the children throughout the session to ensure they understand the behaviour boundaries and respond to requests to help one another. Children with special needs are fully supported and included in all activities. This allows them to develop and progress at their own rate.

Relationships with parents are friendly. Staff greet parents at the end of each term-time session as they collect their children and provide notices detailing activities. In addition, newsletters give details of planned summer outings, for children and parents to choose and book places. However, the complaints policy does not contain sufficient detail to keep parents informed about how to contact the regulator in the event of a complaint. Staff make parents welcome and encourage them to share home information on their children and also to express their expectations of the play scheme. This ensures children have their individual needs met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by qualified staff who have knowledge and experience of how to promote the care and well-being of children. The registered person uses effective recruitment, vetting and induction procedures to ensure staff are aware of the operational policies within the club. This ensures children are provided with appropriate activities to promote their health, safety and enjoyment.

Good teamwork makes sure all staff work well together to promote children's achievements. Outings are organised with high staffing levels to ensure children are safe and supported. Staff have agreed security arrangements for the arrival and departure of children which are discussed with children and parents. The club has sole use of their own entrance door and maintains a record of all visitors to ensure the security of the children at all times.

Staff use the hall and occasionally, two reception classrooms and the information and communication technology room within the premises. There is clear floor space for indoor group games and physical exercise. The outdoor space is utilised to maximise play opportunities for children. Most legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and is regularly reviewed. Overall the provision meets all the individual needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are 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 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 the updated policy for uncollected children is available for staff and parents
- ensure the complaints procedure contains Ofsted's contact details.

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