



## **Southville Community Development Assoc After school**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	107050
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 February 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Flo Griffin-Taylor
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<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Southville After School Club and Holiday Play Scheme opened in 1991. It operates from rooms in the Southville Centre, Southville, Bristol, where the management staff have the overall responsibility for the organisation of the group. It serves the local and surrounding area.

The club is open Monday to Friday term time, and during all school holiday periods, with the exception of Christmas. The after school sessions operate from 15.00 until 18.00. Children are collected by the group staff from two local primary schools: Southville and Holy Cross. The holiday play sessions are from 08.30 until 18.00.

A maximum of 30 children may attend at any one time, aged from 4 to under 8 years, but children may also attend up to the age of 14 years. There are currently 90 children on roll. The premises are wheelchair accessible and the group provides support for children with special needs.

Currently five staff are employed to work directly with children. Three staff hold early years Level 2 certificates and two staff are currently working towards a Level 3 qualification in play work.

The club is affiliated to the Bristol Association of Neighbourhood Day Care (BAND). They also receive support from the Early Years Development and Child Care Partnership (EYDCCP).

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is suitably promoted through established routines and good practice. This is supported by a range of written statements, which includes sickness, health and hygiene procedures. Children are protected from illness and infection through the provision of a clean environment and the exclusion of children who are sick. Play and equipment items are washed regularly and tables cleaned at snack times. Children are suitably looked after if ill and are well protected through staff's knowledge of first aid and the procedures to follow if medication is administered and accidents occur. All records are shared with parents.

Children are independent in their self-care skills, for example, they wash and dry their hands after using the toilet, after messy play and before eating. Staff support the younger children and act as good role models, helping them to develop a positive awareness and understanding of health issues. They talk about the reason for washing hands and are encouraged to adopt good hygiene procedures.

A varied range of activities are on offer which contribute to children's good health. They enjoy physical play on a daily basis, which helps them learn to control their bodily movements, develop co-ordination and maintain good fitness levels. Children enjoy the freedom of space using both the inside and outside play areas to run, play games, and develop a range of skills using bats, balls, hoops and skipping ropes. All are able to rest and relax according to their needs, where they look at books, listen to tapes, watch appropriate video's, or use the computer and play station.

Children are developing an awareness of healthy eating. Parents provide packed lunches during the holiday play sessions, which are labelled and stored appropriately in a cool area. Drinks are regularly on offer, and can be easily accessed, as needed. A water fountain is also available nearby. The club takes full account of the wishes of parents and of their preferences, ensuring that dietary needs are met. However, children gain less understanding of the value of good nutrition as they mainly select a snack from a choice of biscuits. This is because nourishing options such as fresh fruit is not usually available on a regular basis.

## **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are warmly welcomed and greeted into the safe and relaxed environment. They use a range of play resources and equipment appropriate to their age and stage of development, all of which conform to safety requirements. Samples of children's own art work and creations are on display, giving additional colour to the surroundings. Children's freedom to move around inside is maximised as the main room area is well set out and organised. There is sufficient space between activities, which are arranged in clearly defined areas. Play items such as construction sets, small world play and craft materials, are easily and readily available. These are stored in boxes, tubs, a low bookcase and cupboards, and extend children's choice, enabling them to self select and be independent. Outside, children are able to move around safely and freely within agreed boundaries.

Safety is given much consideration, so that children are protected from harm. Risks of accidental injury are minimised because staff are vigilant and use risk assessments, for both the indoor and outdoor space, to reduce potential hazards. However, these lack sufficient detail and do not include all areas used within the premises. Staff have a good understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits, and how to involve children effectively in organising their own environment. This allows children to learn some sense of danger, to gain knowledge about how to protect themselves, and take responsibility for keeping themselves safe. Fire drills are undertaken, but not on a regular basis and details are not duly recorded. Safe procedures are in place for any visits undertaken, with children well aware of the need to stay close together at all times. Regular and ongoing communication with parents also contributes to children's safety.

Children are well protected by staff who have a secure knowledge and understanding of child protection, policies and procedures. Children are closely supervised at all times and are never left in the care of staff, or other adults, who are not vetted. Staff are clear as to their responsibilities and the actions to follow should concerns be noted, and share this information with parents.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed, happy and settle quickly. They benefit from the knowledge and experience of the staff, who know each child well and their particular interests. Children are engaged in a broad range of activities that are interesting, stimulating and developmentally age appropriate. Activities organised during the holiday play scheme are well considered beforehand, with children consulted, and planned around weekly themes, for example, 'On the Farm', 'Animals and Pets', 'Halloween' and include linked indoor and outdoor play ventures, with opportunities for day trips out. There is insufficient forward planning however applied with regard to the after school club, although children's interests, together with celebration of specific festivals, are taken well into account. Staff also do not regularly evaluate the activities they provide to ensure that they continue to offer children suitable challenge and

promote their wellbeing and development. Children however are enthusiastic and self assured. They choose with confidence from the suitable and appropriate range of toys and resources available that are either set out in readiness prior to their arrival, or are easily accessible.

Children enjoy the varied creative activities on offer to them and eagerly participate. Their learning and enjoyment is well supported through appropriate staff intervention. For example, staff discuss the range of paints on offer and how to mix them together. They talk about the craft resources available and how these can be imaginatively applied. Children use the paints and craft materials to create their own artistic pictures, patterns, collage designs and colourful Valentine cards for their friends and families. Children are proud of their achievements and the pieces of work they produce. These are valued and shown and discussed with parents, with many placed on display.

Children interact well with each other. Older children show care and consideration to younger children, for example, by explanation about how to play a card matching game and use the play station, so that they can all participate. Children are confident and eager to talk about the ideas they have and what they have done.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed and included. They are encouraged to play a full part in the club because staff value and respect the individuality of each child. They enjoy mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. Their self-esteem and confidence is developed as they voice their opinions and make choices and decisions. They gain a sense of belonging to the club through their views being sought and listened to, and their art work displayed, together with photographs of them engaged in activities. Children willingly take on responsibilities within the club, for example, taking turns to wash tables and tidying up.

Children show care and concern for each other and play happily together. They are generally well behaved, polite and co-operative. They benefit from the clear, consistent boundaries and calm approach of the staff, who give constant praise and encouragement. Children know what is expected of them, because they regularly discuss the club behaviour rules. Staff talk to the children to support them and to gently reinforce behaviour boundaries. This helps children learn to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own actions and behaviour.

Meaningful themed activities such as a collage of 'Children of the World', detailing children from different countries and celebration of festivals, such as the Chinese New Year, increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of other cultures and ways of life. Children learn about the living world, and their local and surrounding environment through trips and outings to places of interest such as Avon Valley Country Park, Snuff Mills, and Bath Park.

There are effective arrangements in place to care for children with special needs, so they are able to integrate well with the group. Staff sensitively discuss children's

individual requirements with parents. Equipment and resources are adapted and the necessary staff support provided, to ensure they are able to participate fully. All children respect and understand that some children need extra help and willingly support those who do. This contributes to children's overall well being and an understanding of other's needs.

Relationships with parents are warm and friendly. They are made to feel welcome and relaxed and encouraged to take part in the club activities. Parents are kept well informed about the provision, the activities undertaken and of their children's achievements, through on-going daily discussion. Recently a meeting was held to discuss forming a parents support group. The response was very positive and it is proposed to hold regular termly meetings. Any specific concerns relating to children are discussed confidentially, and an agreed strategy plan adopted, so that children do not receive mixed messages.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care and learning is appropriately supported by suitably qualified and experienced staff. The main area used within the premises is well set out and structured, and space arranged to maximise play opportunities. Resources are easily accessible. Staff work well together as a team, are enthusiastic, and are clear as to their roles and responsibilities. They take advantage of on-going training opportunities and meet regularly to discuss and reflect on the provision provided.

The legally required documentation, together with the operational plan and a comprehensive file of policies and procedures is in place. These all contribute to children's overall health, safety and protection. However some aspects lack detail. Not all paperwork is regularly reviewed, updated, systematically arranged or filed appropriately. There have also been some occasions noted when the group have not complied to their conditions of registration with regard to the maximum number of children able to be present at any one time. In consequence, this has a possible impact on the safeguarding of children's overall well being.

Staff are deployed appropriately, know the children well, and engage and support them in their play. A broad and balanced range of activities are on offer that children enjoy and which provides challenge, stimulation, choice and interest. Children settle well and are happily and purposefully engaged. They benefit from the committed staff team, who manage space, resources and time effectively.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection in December 2003 the club was requested to review the frequency of risk assessments carried out; keep a written record, signed by parents, of any medication administered to children; devise a system to record any incident of physical restraint.

Since then the club has made, overall, good progress to address these recommendations and have carried out improvements which promote children's safety and well being.

Risk assessments are reviewed on a regular basis and daily checks are also carried out. Written forms have been introduced. However, some lack sufficient detail and do not include all areas used within the premises.

Individual consent and recording forms for administering medication have been devised, which parents countersign.

An incident book is in place, with details recorded appropriately and confidentially.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

In August 2005 Ofsted received a concern which raised issues with regard to the following standards: Standard 1: Suitable Person and Standard 2: Organisation.

An unannounced visit was made, the outcome of which demonstrated that the group were meeting the National Standards. A recommendation was raised to ensure that staff ratios were maintained at all times.

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 that risk assessments are sufficiently detailed and include all areas used within the premises.
- comply fully with fire safety recommendations, with fire drills carried out on a regular basis and full details recorded.
- ensure that all documentation is made readily available, systematically maintained and filed appropriately, with all policies and procedures reviewed

and updated, as necessary, on a regular basis.

- ensure that the conditions of registration are complied with and maintained at all times.

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