



Coley Park After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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Registered person	Reading Borough Council
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?

Coley Park Out of School Club is part of Reading Borough Council's play development department. It opened at the current site in 2002 and operates from one main room and hall within the community centre in Coley Park. A maximum of 32 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. Coley Park After School Club opens Monday to Friday between 15.00 and 18.00 during term time. Children are collected from two local primary schools. Children attending other schools may attend Coley Park After School Club if their own arrangements can be made to be brought to the premises. Coley Park Holiday Play Club opens during the Easter and Summer school holidays from 08.30 to 17.30.

There are currently 39 children on roll. The group serves the needs of families in the surrounding area. The intake of children reflects the ethnic diversity of the local community. The setting supports children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The setting employs 4 staff. The leader holds a childcare qualification and is working towards the NVQ level 3 in play work. A staff member holds a level 2 qualification and 2 staff are working towards a level 3 qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children understand simple good health and hygiene practices. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. Staff promote independence well and respect the children's privacy. Children play in a clean and tidy environment. All staff hold a current first aid certificate. This means they can give appropriate care if there is an accident. Children have a good choice of nutritious and attractively presented meals. This helps children develop good eating habits. They have their health and dietary needs met because staff work well with parents. Children can access drinking water on request and the plentiful amount of food prepared at mealtimes ensures children have the opportunity for seconds.

Children enjoy regular physical activities that help keep them in good health. For example, walking from school to the club daily and games such as dodge ball in the large hall. They have opportunities to rest within the setting by accessing the quiet area in the lobby.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe environment which is well-organised and allows them to move around safely. Staff are vigilant and minimise hazards through suitable supervision and risk assessments. The premises are very secure and there are good procedures in place to prevent unwanted visitors gaining entry. Staff check identification of visitors and parents access the premises using a buzzer system, which staff manage effectively. Children and staff practice the emergency evacuation procedures on a regular basis. This helps children become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency.

Children have easy and safe access to a good range of toys and resources appropriate for their age. They learn to keep themselves safe and avoid accidental injury. They wear fluorescent bibs when walking to the club from school, sign in on arrival and do not run inside the main playroom. Children are cared for by staff who are vetted and have relevant experience, knowledge and skills. Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and know how to proceed if they have concerns about a child in their care. This supports the children's wellbeing.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem as staff provide a warm, welcoming environment which is set up attractively for when they arrive. Staff are attentive and offer appropriate and suitable support and attention, praising the children's efforts and responding positively to their interests. Children show interest in what they do and settle quickly to their chosen activities. They participate eagerly and demonstrate periods of extended concentration. They particularly enjoy pattern making with the Hama beads and playing in teams with the table football. Staff provide a varied, interesting and wide range of activities and equipment for the children to get pleasure from. Children participate with enthusiasm and keenness and enjoy their time at the club.

Children make positive relationships and relate very well to staff and to each other. They enjoy playing in teams and sharing ideas. They confidently approach staff for support indicating good trusting relationships are built.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel a sense of belonging as staff value and acknowledge their differences, know and respect their family history and respond to their requests. Staff work with parents to meet individual children's needs and ensure they are fully in the life of the setting. Staff treat children as individuals and acknowledge differences and preferences. For example, preparing an alternative pasta dish for children who do not like the main dish. The setting has effective arrangements to care for children with special education needs, although none currently attend.

Children understand responsible behaviour as they have clear guidelines, which staff consistently manage. They understand about taking turns and sharing and behaviour is good and at times very good. However, the children become bored and distracted between courses at mealtimes and at times their behaviour deteriorates. The partnership with parents is good and they are happy with the provision of care provided for their children. They relate well with the staff and regular informal discussions ensures continuity of care for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a well-organised environment where they receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. Staff hold regular meetings to discuss planning and other issues, including organising the weekly menus. There are effective recruitment procedures in place. Staff are able to attend further relevant childcare training. This means that suitable, experienced and persons willing to undertake training, look after children. All mandatory records are in place, confidential

and well maintained. This guarantees the safe and effective management of the setting in order to promote children's welfare. Staff use policies and procedures effectively to promote the welfare, safety, care and learning of children. Staff ensure the children have sufficient time to complete their chosen tasks and eat their meal. However, the timing between courses is lengthy leading to some children's behaviour deteriorating and some children missing out on desert as their parents arrive to collect them.

Staff supervise the children well most of the time. On occasions, some staff are pre-occupied with cleaning requirements and this limits the numbers of staff caring for the children. Staff never leave children unsupervised with persons not vetted. This helps to promote their welfare. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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. There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- reassess mealtimes, in particular the timing between courses, to ensure children's interests and behaviour is maintained
- ensure deployment of staff maintains children's welfare at all times, particularly during clearing up of meals.

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