



Crofton Before & After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY316034
Inspection date 21 March 2006
Inspector Alison Large

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Registered person Crofton Out Of School Care Limited
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?

Crofton Before and After School Club is privately owned and opened in 1999. It operates from one room in the Youth Wing of Crofton Community Centre in the Stubbington area of Hampshire. It serves the local and wider area.

There are currently 60 children from 4 to 11 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs or who speak English as an additional language. The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 07:30 until 08:45 and 15:15 until 18:00 daily.

Six staff work with the children. Four have appropriate qualifications in Playwork.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health within the club is supported well by staff who have a knowledge of the club's health and hygiene procedures. Children are independent in self-care skills and are supported and guided by staff, which helps them gain an understanding of hygiene. However the club's medication records are not maintained in sufficient detail, which means children's health may be compromised. Children have an understanding of healthy eating as they make choices from a variety of healthy options at breakfast time and tea time. They benefit from a varied menu, and can choose from a range of hot or cold options, such as fruit, toast, yogurts and sandwiches. Staff make sure the menu complies with any special dietary requirements, ensuring children's individual needs are met.

Children are able to make use of the space in the room for physical activity, to help develop co-ordination and gain spatial awareness. They have opportunities to occasionally visit the local park to run and play, which contributes to their good health and physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and confident in the well organised environment. They have use of the community room, kitchen and toilets. Children have access to good quality equipment appropriate to their various stages of development and ages, which are kept clean and safe. Staff have an awareness of safety, but the lack of a written risk assessment means potential risks are not identified and dealt with promptly; for example the children's safety concerning the unlocked doors and the signing in of visitors to and from the club. This impacts on the staff's ability to fully safeguard the children. Fire drills are practiced on a regular basis to ensure children are aware of the procedures to follow should there be an emergency. Staff have an understanding of child protection issues, and know how to implement policies ensuring children are protected from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the club. They arrive confidently and happily and are eager to participate. Children have access to a wide range of stimulating resources and activities. They are able to extend and lead their own play and enjoy this time at the end of the school day when they can relax or be active in accordance with their needs and interests. Staff interact well with the children and join in their games,

which ensures the children are well supported. Children settle well into the club, and are confident in their routines. They are able to express their own ideas, for example through role play, and these are valued and encouraged by staff. There is a good range of resources, which are used well to interest the children. Children are friendly and show care and concern for others.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop self-esteem and confidence as they are able to make choices, staff take time to listen to the children and are interested in what they say and do. Children behave well, they know what is expected of them because staff set consistent behaviour boundaries, which enables them to take responsibility for their own behaviour. All children are welcomed and play a full part in the club because staff value and appreciate their individuality.

The good partnership with parents contributes to the child's well-being while at the club. Relationships with the parents are friendly. They are made welcome when collecting their child and information is shared daily. Children are able to access some resources reflecting diversity and gain knowledge of various festivals, which helps them develop an understanding of the wider world.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are able to move around freely and feel at ease in the well organised environment. Indoor space is planned to maximise the play opportunities for the children. Children are occupied and engaged with the variety of resources available to them, which helps them to take an active part in the club. The staff team ensure they work together to promote the children's enjoyment and well-being, staff hold qualifications in early years practice, but have not yet obtained any qualifications in play work, to enhance the care of older children. All the relevant documentation is in place and stored confidentially. Staff ensure that the children attending the club are recorded, however the lack of vigilance in recording visitors to the club means children's well-being is not fully safeguarded. The setting meets the 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):

- keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children
- assess the risks to children in relation to the unlocked doors, and the signing in and out of visitors to the club and take action to minimise these
- develop and implement an action plan that sets out how staff will receive training relevant to the ages of children cared for such as Take Ten for Play or other Playwork qualifications.

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