



Activezone

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY306431
Inspection date 13 March 2006
Inspector Melanie Arnold

Setting Address Lincoln Minster Pre-Preparatory School, Eastgate, Lincoln,
Lincolnshire, LN2 1QG
Telephone number 01522 523769
E-mail
Registered person United Church Schools Trust at Lincoln Minster Sch
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?

Activezone is run by United Church Schools Trust at Lincoln Minster School. It opened in 2005 and mainly operates from one room in the Pre-Preparatory department. Children also have access to the school hall, toilets and a secure outside area. A maximum of 30 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche is open for after school sessions, 15.30 to 18.00 and for full days during designated school holidays, 08.00 to 18.00.

There are currently 23 children on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area to attend the crèche. The crèche currently supports a number of children with special

educational needs.

The crèche employs seven staff. Five of the staff, including the manager hold an appropriate early years qualification. One member of staff is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and well-being is promoted well as the setting encourages healthy eating through providing a balanced range of snacks at snack time. For example, children enjoy toast, fruit and a drink of water or juice. Their dietary needs are fully met because staff have a good understanding of each child's specific dietary requirements. Children's health is prompted well because the setting is clean and good health and hygiene routines are implemented by the staff. A healthy environment is effectively maintained for children because any child who becomes ill is excluded from the setting until they have fully recovered. Children benefit from and enthusiastically join in with regular physical activities organised outside and in the school hall. They have fun playing with bats, balls and hoops outside in the fresh air, where they have the freedom to run around and let off steam.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy playing in a welcoming environment, where staff use space and resources well to create an accessible, stimulating environment in which children can play. They have free access to toys and resources which are set up within the room, with further resources and activities provided in the school hall and outside. This results in children being fully occupied for the session. Children have fun playing with well maintained toys and resources, which are regularly checked to ensure they are fully safe for them to use.

Children's safety is effectively maintained because staff are deployed well, which ensures children are fully supervised. The majority of potential hazards have been identified within the setting and appropriate steps have been taken to limit these risks, although some trailing wires have yet to be fully secured to the wall. The setting is maintained securely with good security procedures in place, ensuring children are fully protected. Children's safety is effectively maintained on any outings because of the good procedures in place. For example, risk assessments are completed on each outing to identify any hazards, emergency contact details are taken enabling staff to contact relevant people in the event of an emergency and children are made aware of any rules and are supervised at all times. Children are protected at all times and their welfare fully safeguarded, because staff have a good understanding of possible indicators of abuse and they have a secure knowledge of child protection procedures to follow should they have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have fun and enjoy their time at the setting because they have the freedom to choose the activities they would most like to do. They play in an informal, relaxed atmosphere, where they have access to interesting activities and resources, which occupy and stimulate them. Children feel valued because staff listen and respond well to them. Staff develop conversations, which are of interest to individual children. For example, staff ask children about their day at school, or they ask children to show them what they have been doing. This results in children feeling a sense of belonging and self-worth. Children socialise well and they enjoy playing and chatting with their friends. For example, playing and taking turns on the play station, playing role play activities together and sitting at the table colouring and playing games. During school holidays children are kept fully amused and entertained because they go on regular trips and outings to places of interest. They also have opportunities to participate in varied, interesting activities, like dance workshops, playing on bouncy castles and learning first aid. This results in children having lots of fun in their leisure time.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel settled and relaxed in their environment because staff know them well and they receive a good standard of care to meet their individual needs. Therefore, children feel a sense of belonging because staff understand their differing needs and respect them as individuals. Staff are fully aware of children's special needs, enabling them to provide relevant care. Children's behaviour is good because staff set good examples by acting as positive role models. Children respect staff and they respond well to the effective use of praise and encouragement, which encourages their good behaviour and develops their confidence and self-esteem. Children benefit from staff working well and forming a good partnership with parents. Staff have developed good, informal communication channels with parents, ensuring parents are fully informed about their child's daily activities. Parents receive good information about forthcoming events through an informative brochure and information recorded in the school newsletter.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit as they are cared for in a well organised environment where space is used effectively to meet their needs. Toys and resources are set out to provide children with easy access to them. Records are completed with relevant information and stored confidentially, ensuring children's needs are met. Children's welfare, care and development are promoted because appropriate policies and procedures are in place, however, some policies lack sufficient detail and they have yet to be specifically related to the setting's current practices. Children's welfare is appropriately safeguarded because relevant strategies are in place with regard to

recruiting and vetting new staff, however, induction procedures are not fully implemented to ensure all staff are fully aware of the setting's policies and procedures. Children benefit from staff working well with parents to meet their individual needs. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

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):

- further develop systems to ensure all potential hazards are identified and fully minimised
- further develop induction procedures to ensure all staff have read and understood the settings policies and procedures
- ensure policies and procedures reflect the practice of the setting and they relate to the National Standards.

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