



Farley Hill After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	148655
Inspection date	28 February 2006
Inspector	Sheila Collins
Setting Address	Church Road, Farley Hill, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 1UB
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Registered person	Farley Hill School After School Club
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?

Farley Hill After School Club opened in 1999. It operates from Farley Hill Primary School, which is located in the rural area of Farley Hill, near Swallowfield. The after school club is based in the school dining room and also uses other areas of the school including the hall and outside play facilities. Children attending the club also attend the school.

The club is open every weekday during the school term between 15:10 and 18:00. A maximum of 24 children aged between 4 and 8 years may attend the club at any one time. The club allocates a proportion of the 24 places to children between the ages of

8 and 11 years. There are currently 104 children on roll. The club supports children with special educational needs.

The club employ 5 staff, 4 of whom work part-time. There are 2 staff, including the Supervisor, who have early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children understand about the importance of good health and hygiene procedures. They are independent in their self-care and take themselves to the toilet, remembering to ask permission to leave the room. They wash their hands after using the toilet, before tea and cooking activities. Although they do not prepare their own snack, they choose from a good range of healthy food options, which includes wholemeal bread. Staff know the children's individual dietary needs which they take into account when they offer cooking as an activity. Children have a choice of cold drinks, which are available throughout the club session.

Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the children's individual health and medical records, which maintains their health. Staff have current first aid qualifications and any minor accident to a child is dealt with quickly. Staff act appropriately if a child becomes unwell, contacting parents to collect their child and ensuring that child sits quietly away from other children, which minimises the risk of cross-infection for other children.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities both inside and outside, which promote their good health. Children are confident in their physical skills, have good co-ordination and spatial awareness. They have daily exercise in the hall and choose the activities with the staff, for example skittles and football. Staff divide the area to ensure that both activities could take place safely and support the children by making sides to the skittle alley using benches. During good weather, they have the opportunity to play outside on the adventure playground.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children learn to keep themselves safe in the club. They know the rules in place for their safety for example, no running. The staff are vigilant about children's safety and ensure this by the effective implementation of thorough daily risk assessments and by following good health and safety procedures. Children talk about safe practice, for example the rules in place when they are doing specific activities such as cooking. They take part in regular evacuation drills and are confident when explaining these, as they are the same as for the school.

Children use a range of appropriate and suitable toys and resources. The extensive range of equipment and resources is available suitable for the ages of children

attending. Good procedures are in place to ensure equipment is safe and well maintained. The staff put out basic resources prior to the arrival of the children, which makes it feel more welcoming. However, the dining room tables and chairs have to remain in place, which restricts the areas that can be created for the children.

The staff have a good working knowledge of child protection and the procedures to follow which ensures the children's wellbeing.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enter the club happily, chat confidently to each other and staff. They are keen to see what is on offer for the session. They choose activities and resources independently, using items already out around the room, requesting other resources if they would like them. They have an excellent range of resources available to choose from, which the staff supplement by borrowing items from the school and the local network library.

The children play co-operatively together, involving and including others in their play. The older children help the younger children very well, offering advice for example when playing on the play station. They enjoy themselves and are totally engaged in what they are doing, for example during the craft activity. All children support each other, share achievements, for example applauding their peers when they successfully toss their pancake and commiserating if they drop it. They enthusiastically talk about past activities and experiences and make suggestions for future activities.

Children thoroughly enjoy the adult led activities and all choose to take part in the pancake making. Staff know the children's abilities very well and adapt the activities for each child. Children benefit from individual attention, for example at the craft table, during which they talk with staff, discussing the events of the school day. The staff know the children's interests and family make up, talking knowledgeably with them about these which make the children feel valued.

The staff plan activities thoroughly which benefits the children. They include suggestions made by the children and ensure that all children can take part. The extensive range of activities and experiences ensure that children relish their time in the club.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the club. The children's individual needs are known by all the staff, which ensures that they receive appropriate support. Staff have good relationships with the children, which gives the children a sense of belonging. The children are involved in the running of the club as they contribute their suggestions for activities and resources. They support each other by taking turns to help prepare

snacks for every body and to write the rota for the play station. They know the rules in place and remind each other of these, for example, when lining up at the door. Staff's praise of the children's efforts and achievements promotes their self-esteem and confidence. Children also encourage each other for example when tossing pancakes and playing skittles. Children's behaviour is good and they share and show co-operation in their play.

There are good relationships with parents with opportunities at the end of the session to exchange information about their child. They receive a prospectus and the policies and procedures for the club are available for them to read. They receive regular newsletters, which ensure that they are fully informed about the club and their child's care. They have opportunities to attend open days and to share their talents with the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

There are comprehensive policies and procedures in place and all documentation was available for inspection. Policies, procedures and other information are available for parents. The registration certificate is on the notice board .This ensures that both parents and their child, are aware of how the club is run.

Good procedures are in place for the recruitment and vetting of staff, which ensures that those working directly with the children are suitable. The staff work well as a team, clearly understanding their roles and responsibilities. They work hard to set up a suitable environment for the children, overcoming the difficulties such as moving the children to a different area during sessions.

The club is well organised overall, but the limitations of the dining room used as base, means that the children do not have a quiet area in which to relax. The staff interact extremely well with the children. However, there are times when they are busy with individual children or small groups, which means that they are not always aware of what others are doing.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the club were asked to revise the induction plan for new staff and volunteers to include updated policies and procedures. All the required polices and procedures are in place and implemented by the staff, which benefits the children ensuring their wellbeing and safety.

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 any 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 that staff are deployed so that they are aware of what all children are doing.

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