



Buckingham's Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY313307
Inspection date	02 May 2006
Inspector	Valerie Thomas

Setting Address	Woodcroft County First School, Wallbridge Drive, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 8JG
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Registered person	Buckingham's Nursery School Ltd (3451021)
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?

Buckingham's Out of School Club opened in 2005. It operates from two rooms within Woodcroft County First School and is situated on a residential estate on the outskirts of Leek town centre. A maximum of 32 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open 07.30 until 09.00 and from 15.00 until 18.00 during term times and in school holidays from 07.30 until 18.00. There is access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 40 children from 3 to 11 years. Children come from the local and surrounding areas. The club supports a number of children with special needs.

There are three staff who work with the children. Two of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and one staff member is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health within the setting is supported well by staff that implement good health and hygiene procedures. Children learn the importance of personal hygiene through good daily routines and are independent in their self-care skills. They know that they need to wash their hands before eating their snack so that they don't get germs on the food as it will make them poorly. Clear procedures in place for sick and infectious children help prevent the spread of infection. This helps to keep children healthy.

Children's dietary needs are met in partnership with parents. All needs are fully discussed and recorded and healthy snacks are provided at snack times before and after school. Children enjoy eating the vegetable curry and the fruit at tea time. They are able to help themselves to drinks throughout the sessions. During school holidays children bring packed lunches. This helps children develop a positive attitude to healthy eating. However, there are occasional times when healthy eating is not fully promoted as children have access to a 'tuck shop' twice a week, with sweets and chews available.

Children have good opportunities for physical exercise and playing outside in the fresh air. Children enjoy playing a game of tennis and football with their friends outside and enjoy when staff take part in a game of 'tick' with them. Indoors children have daily sessions where they can go into the hall and take part in physical activities. Children have lots of fun performing handstands and cartwheels on the mats. They help each other to perform headstands, with lots of giggles when their body falls over. Consequently, this promotes children's good health and encourages them to develop a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment with good space for them to play comfortably with the toys. Staff monitor access to the group at all times and set boundaries for children when playing particularly when outside. Daily safety checks are made to ensure all areas are safe and appropriate for children's play and risk assessments are in place. Fire evacuation procedures are displayed and drills are practised every month. Children know that when they hear the whistle they need to line up by the door and go outside with the staff. This helps children to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

Children benefit from the boundaries put in place by staff. They learn that they need to be careful when performing handstands because of kicking other children and

know that they should not fight as they might hurt each other. Children use a wide range of good quality resources. They are able to make decisions about their play through choosing from the easily accessible toys. Procedures implemented by staff help ensure the toys remain safe for children to play with. All areas used by the children are maintained well and offer a welcoming environment for children. This helps children stay safe.

Staff have a suitable understanding of child protection issues and know the correct procedures to follow for reporting concerns. There is a detailed policy in place which gives clear guidance to staff. Consequently, children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and secure in the club's friendly environment. They enjoy their time where they can relax or take part in the wide range of activities offered. Children say that they 'love coming to the club because they can play with everything'. They concentrate and show good interest with the varied range of resources available. Children show much enjoyment as they sit and colour their pictures and have lots of fun performing handstands and cartwheels. They play well together with the 'Thundercat' figures and use their imagination well as they act out various scenes. Planning shows that children have many opportunities to develop their creative skills. For example, they make clown biscuits, musical instruments and a puppet theatre. Samples of work displayed shows that they paint, make collage pictures and use felt tips to draw with. As a result children's interest is maintained well and children are happy.

Children are supported well by the staff. They encourage children's independence and spend time listening and talking to them. They talk about 'global warming' and listen to children as they explain how they are part of the 'Eco squad' in the school. Children help to serve the afternoon snack, encouraging their friends to taste the curry and help staff to clean the tables when they have finished. Consequently children are learning to become self-sufficient. Children's self-esteem is encouraged well through praise and relationships with staff are positive. As a result, children are happy and confident in the setting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enjoy positive relationships with the staff and with each other. They are valued and respected as individuals and their self-esteem and confidence is developed well by staff with use of praise and encouragement during their play. Children behave well and respond positively to the 'traffic light system' that is used to manage any negative behaviour. Children know that they should not run, fight or swear when they are at the club. They use their manners well when asking for their snack and say sorry if they bump into someone. There are a suitable range of resources to promote positive images of culture, gender and disability and topics are

completed on racial awareness. This helps children to develop their knowledge of diversity and understanding of others. There is good support for children with special needs and staff work in partnership with parents to meet their needs.

Relationships with parents are positive and friendly. They are made aware of how the setting operates through discussion and all written policies are available for parents to view with some included in the parent pack. Children's individual needs are fully discussed and recorded and a daily exchange of information keeps parents informed of their child's well-being. In addition, each child has their own diary which is completed by their key worker and is shared with parents at regular intervals. This enables staff and parents to work together to meet the needs of the child.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There are effective recruitment procedures which ensures staff are appropriately vetted and suitable to work with children. Children benefit as staff attend additional training to extend their knowledge and all staff are encouraged to attend training on child protection, food hygiene, child protection and health and safety. Appraisal systems are completed annually and regular monitoring of new staff takes place. There is a full written induction procedure that is implemented with new staff. However, this has not been fully effective on one occasion as not all staff are fully aware of one of the procedures for the setting.

All policies and procedures are in place and are used effectively to contribute to the quality of care provided. The welcoming environment and good space ensures children can play comfortably with the toys and equipment. Children are happy and enjoy their play in the setting. They are settled and confident and the organisation of activities ensures staff can meet children's individual needs. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been 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):

- improve children's good health by providing healthy options if tuck is provided
- improve the induction procedures so that staff are fully informed of all procedures.

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