



Ashdene After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	304958
Inspection date	22 March 2006
Inspector	Zoe Smith
Setting Address	Ashdene Primary School, Thoresway Road, Wilmslow, SK9 6LJ
Telephone number	07855 212890
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Registered person	Network Nurseries Ltd
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Ashdene After School Club has been registered since 1999. It is based at Ashdene Primary School in the Wilmslow district of Cheshire. The club operates from 15.30 until 18.30, Monday to Friday during school term-times. The areas of the school used for the provision are the dining area, hall, music room, library and link room.

Out of school care is provided for a maximum of 58 children. There are currently 74 children on-roll, 48 of whom are aged under 8 years. The group supports children who have special educational needs.

Network Nurseries Ltd. is the registered provider. They have employed a manager to run the club on a daily basis. The manager has a recognised childcare qualification and is supported by a team of six staff, two of whom are qualified and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy participating in a wide range of physical play activities in the hall, on the school field and in the playground. When outside, they enthusiastically run around, skip, play netball and football. When inside, they eagerly participate in gymnastic activities, for example, skilfully doing forward rolls. These activities provide plenty of fresh air and exercise and are helping children to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

The premises are maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. Appropriate hygiene practices are implemented by staff. Children know to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Therefore, they are learning the importance of good hygiene practices.

The children have toast or a savoury biscuit for their snack. They seldom have fresh fruit, salad or vegetables. Therefore healthy choices are limited and they are not learning about the benefits of a balanced diet. Children receive drinks and food in sufficient quantities to meet their needs. Fresh drinking water is readily available for children to quench their thirst during a session.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and well-maintained environment. Potential risks have been identified and safety precautions put in place to minimise them. Regular fire drills are conducted to ensure that staff and children are well-practised in emergency evacuation procedures. Children are directly supervised by staff as they play. This ensures that they adhere to the agreed boundaries and rules that protect them from accident and injury. For example, they help to tidy away and do not climb on the tables and chairs. Children choose what to play with from a range of resources which are suitable for their age and stage of development. The safety and protection of children is of importance to staff. They have an appropriate understanding of child protection procedures and their responsibility to implement them should they have concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children enjoy their time at the group, where they are happy and settled. They

take the lead in how they spend their time, independently choosing and instigating their own play and activities. A variety of activities, toys and resources are provided, that are designed to stimulate the children's interest and to be enjoyable. Playing outside, imaginative and creative activities are firm favourites. Small groups of children become engrossed as they play imaginatively with the farm animals, dinosaurs and castles. Children carefully plan and build intricate models of vehicles using constructive toys. They have time to relax as well as to be active. For example, they sit quietly and look at books and watch children's programmes on the television.

Children enjoy participating in a range of creative activities. They skilfully use a variety of materials and resources to design and make Mother's Day cards. Children regularly participate in competitive games and sport, such as board games, bingo, cricket, tennis, and football. These activities are helping them to learn rules, play fairly and to take turns. Some children choose to do their homework or practise playing their musical instrument whilst at the group. This helps them to organise and plan their own leisure time. All staff members have good relationships with children. They know when to join in to support and facilitate the children's play, and when not to; in case they interrupt activities. This provides children with a good balance between having plenty of freedom and safe limits.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a small number of resources and activities that provide and promote positive images of gender, culture and disability. Therefore, opportunities for them to learn about the wider world and to value differences are limited. All children are welcomed and play a full part in the group.

Positive methods are used to manage children's behaviour. Meaningful praise and recognition is given to children for their efforts and achievements. Children have agreed and helped to write the group's rules and regularly look at them with staff. As a result, the children behave well and adhere to the boundaries that are in place.

The group works in partnership with parents. Parents are greeted in a welcoming, friendly and relaxed manner by staff. Positive steps are taken to ensure that they are kept informed about all relevant policies and procedures. Daily discussions keep parents up-to-date about their child, progress and any issues.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the friendly and busy environment. The group is organised to reflect that children are spending their leisure time there. They are given plenty of choice and provided with activities that are enjoyable and fun. Rooms used are divided into different types of play and activity areas with resources and equipment easily accessible. Children receive plenty of encouragement and attention from staff. All records and documentation are in place, contain sufficient detail, and

are appropriately maintained and stored. Policies and procedures are used to underpin the care provided and promote the wellbeing of children. However, the child protection statement is not in line with current guidance and does not include a current contact number for social services. This will delay the reporting of concerns about a child or allegations about a member of staff to the appropriate agency. Recruitment and selection procedures are in place to ensure the suitability of staff.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection three recommendations were agreed to develop practice, the group has taken some action to comply with them. However, similar recommendations have been agreed at this inspection. They have expanded the range of snacks offered to children and now provide a wider range of savoury snacks. This gives children more choice in what they eat. A small number of books and imaginative toys that promote equality of opportunity have been obtained. Therefore, children are seeing some positive images of culture, gender and disability. The child protection statement has been reviewed and amendments made; this ensures that staff know what to do if they have concerns about a child's wellbeing.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. The provider is required to keep a record of all 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 satisfactory. 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):

- review children's snack time to ensure that healthy choices are available and healthy eating promoted
- develop the range of resources and activities that promote equality of opportunity and children's understanding of wider society

- ensure that child protection procedures are in line with current guidance.

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