



Take5

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY252801
Inspection date	09 March 2006
Inspector	Jane Mount
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Registered person	Beverley Anne Platten
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?

Take 5 Out of school club opened in 2003 and is privately owned. It operates from Leverstock Green Church of England Primary School, Leverstock Green and is solely for pupils who attend the school. The facilities include the use of a large dining area and hall, an outside quad area and the school fields and playground.

The provision is registered for 40 children aged from 4 years to 8 years and children aged up to 11 years attend. The maximum number of children attending the provision at any one time is 40 and children are able to commence at the club when they are rising 5. The club is open each week day from 08:00 to 08:45 and 15:15 to 18:00,

term time only.

There are currently 60 children on roll with children attending a variety of sessions. The club employs five staff. All staff have relevant early years qualifications or skills and experiences of working with children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have regular opportunities to take part in a varied range of activities which helps to develop their physical skills and to promote a positive attitude towards exercise. In the large hall children are able to actively participate in physical activities. For example, children organise themselves into teams to play football or choose to play tennis with a member of staff. Children and staff delight in playing 'Matrix' where they have to run and jump to avoid being hit with a soft ball. Children have opportunities to play outside in dry weather and a quiet area is available with large floor cushions for children who may wish to rest or relax.

Children's social skills and table manners are encouraged by staff who sit and talk with the children while they are eating their tea. Children have a choice of sandwiches at tea time with sweet and savoury fillings such as turkey, ham, cheese, jam and sometimes chocolate spread. Children are encouraged to eat fruit as part of their tea. The club has recently tried to improve children's diets and their awareness of healthy eating by using brown bread more often instead of white and giving children opportunities to sample different types of fruit. Children are provided with drinks and water is encouraged.

Children understand simple health and hygiene routines. They independently manage their own personal care and know they must wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating. Children's health is protected because staff are aware of good hygiene practices in order to prevent the spread of infection. Staff follow the health and hygiene policies and procedures effectively. For example, only staff with a current food hygiene certificate prepare children's food. Appropriate documentation to record accidents and medication are in place and shared with parents as necessary to ensure the well-being of the children. The manager holds a current first aid certificate with plans for the rest of the staff to attend first aid training in the near future.

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. Any potential risks are identified and addressed through risk assessments and staff have a sound knowledge of health and safety procedures. Appropriate safety precautions are taken, such as regular fire practises. There is an effective security system in place ensuring parents or visitors cannot gain access without ringing a buzzer and being let

in by a member of staff. This ensures no unauthorised persons are on site and that children are not at risk.

Children are learning to keep themselves and others safe because staff raise children's awareness to potential hazards. For example, staff explain safe practices, such as why children should not throw a ball too hard as it might hurt someone. When asked children know how to hold scissors safely. Children have free access to a varied range of safe resources which are appropriate to the ages of the children who attend the club. Resources help to create an accessible and inviting environment, including for the younger children. Staff oversee the activities well, offering children support as needed.

Children's welfare is fully safeguarded because staff have a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures and know how to implement them if they had any concerns. The manager has attended child protection training and there are plans for all staff to attend an appropriate course.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled within their environment and have a strong sense of belonging which enables them to confidently access the play and learning experiences available. Children are happy and talk about their club with pride. When asked children say they have 'a great time' and they like 'playing at the after school club with their friends because it's fun'. Children's independence is promoted as they are able to freely make choices from a varied range of activities and resources. Children play co-operatively and they feel confident to play independently as well as in small and large groups. Staff ensure that children are purposefully engaged in their chosen play at all times. Staff are on hand to support the children as needed and this allows children to play more effectively.

Children develop a sense of achievement as they enthusiastically participate in making flower pictures. They are fully engrossed and enjoy creating and developing their own styles using real flower petals and leaves to make their individual designs. Children show pride in their work and are keen to show the end product to their friends, staff and parents. Children's work is valued with finished pieces of work displayed on a large notice board in the dining hall.

Children's communication skills are fostered well. Staff are skilled at extending children's language. They ask open ended questions and listen to what children have to say. Children are self-assured and attentive, regularly asking questions and show a high level of interest in what they do. Children spend a long time absorbed in making paper boats which they fold into shape using sellotape and glue. Children enjoy playing popular board games with friends and staff.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children understand responsible behaviour and play well together. Older children include younger ones in their play, often helping them to understand the rules of a game. Younger children benefit as their self-esteem grows as they become more settled and relaxed within the group. Children respect each others feelings, share resources and take turns. They happily help each other during activities. Children have the opportunity to receive a 'Good Citizen' award which is given each day to a child who has tried the hardest to be kind or helpful or who has achieved something that they normally find hard to do. Their name is then displayed on a board in the hall so all the school can acknowledge their effort and achievement.

Children's individual needs are met well because staff work in close partnership with parents. Relevant information is displayed on the notice board and parents receive written information about the provision including regular newsletters. Policies and procedures are available to parents including a complaints policy. However, this has not been updated to include information about maintaining a complaints log and therefore parents are not fully informed of the complaints process. Parents are regularly asked to complete questionnaires which are then used by the club to monitor and evaluate the quality of the care children receive. Staff are at hand to share information with parents and carers when they collect children. Parents reported they were very happy with the care their children receive and the range of activities offered.

Children are provided with a varied range of resources and play opportunities which promote a positive view of the wider world and increases their awareness of diversity. Children are treated as individuals and with equal concern. Staff ensure that they are aware of and are able to meet any specific needs a child may have. One way this is successfully achieved is through the completion of a food and activity sheet which is filled in by parents prior to a child commencing at the club.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are safeguarded as systems are in place to ensure staff working with children are suitable to do so. All staff working with children have had appropriate checks completed and any persons not vetted would not have unsupervised access to children and all staff are aware of this. Recruitment procedures ensure children are cared for by staff who have relevant experience, qualifications, knowledge and skills. Staff records are maintained but not currently kept at the club.

Children's care, learning and play are positively supported with clear induction systems in place. This ensures new staff are well informed of the policies and procedures within the setting and they are able to implement them effectively. However, some policies and procedures need updating in line with the revised criteria to the National Standards (October 2005). Children are supervised and supported in their play by staff who work well together as a team and know what their roles and responsibilities are. Ratios are always maintained and staff are well deployed. Documentation is comprehensive and effectively organised and confidentiality is always prioritised. Overall, the range of children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to review the special needs policy and the induction programme. Children's welfare, care and learning are promoted as the induction programme has been reviewed. All staff now receive their own copy of the clubs policies and procedures. Signatures are obtained when they have been read and staff are familiar with how to implement them effectively. Children's individual needs are met as the special needs policy has also been reviewed and updated and now includes procedures to follow if concerns are raised or if a child is identified with a special need.

The provider was also asked to review and extend resources to reflect equal opportunities and to meet the needs of younger children who attend the club. Resources have been introduced which are more suitable for the younger children attending, such as, small world play and some dressing up clothes to develop their imaginations. Resources to reflect the wider world have also been introduced and includes books, videos and some multi- cultural dressing up clothes.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted.

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):

- review and update all policies and procedures in line with revised criteria to the Day Care and Childminding: Guidance to the National Standards (October 2005)

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