



Wizzkids

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY305579
Inspection date	04 April 2006
Inspector	Chris Scully
Setting Address	Holy Family Social Club, Hall Lane, Cronton, Widnes, WA8 5DW
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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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Wizzkids Out of School Club is one of 2 clubs run by a private provider. It opened in 2005 and operates from 2 rooms within Holy Family Social Club. It is situated in a residential area in Cronton, Widnes. A maximum of 60 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 07.30 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 18.00 in term time, and from 07.30 to 18.00 in the school holidays. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area. Children attend from 3 local schools.

There are currently 70 children on roll, which includes children up to the age of 11 years. The setting supports children with special educational needs and for whom

English is an additional language.

The club employs 5 staff. Of these, 2 staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally clean environment. They understand the need for good hygiene practices, although they do not always wash their hands before snack time. All children are confidently able to see to their own personal needs. Children's health is promoted by the comprehensive sick children policy, which is understood and effectively implemented by staff. This means staff are able to identify if a child is unwell and take appropriate action. Staff are trained in first aid and are able to respond quickly and effectively to accidents or incidents. However, permission for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment is not in place for each child. This hinders the staff's ability to treat children.

Children have opportunities to explore their physical skills through a range of indoor activities, such as dance mats and taking part in organised games. During the summer months children have regular opportunities to play outdoors and take part in a variety of activities that enable them to test and explore their physical skills. For example, obstacle courses, races and using an inflatable castle. Due to a current lack of outdoor play provision, staff take children to the local park and provide additional indoor activities to enable children to 'let off steam' and engage in physical exercise.

Children enjoy a mainly healthy and nutritious range of snacks and breakfast options. Children's individual dietary needs are known and are carefully considered after consultation with the parents. Staff are aware that some children have food intolerances, they take appropriate steps to ensure they are not exposed to foods that may trigger a reaction. The current practice for snack time does not promote a relaxed environment for children. They are not always seated and are often walking around the setting eating and drinking. Children have good opportunities to access drinks, including fresh water, to keep themselves refreshed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The room is welcoming to children, with some activities set up before children arrive. On arrival children are keen to become engaged in play and to self select additional play activities. The main hall is set up with different play activities, such as art, craft, reading, air hockey and snooker. The smaller room is mainly used for computer games. Children move freely between the areas and are confident to choose where to play and with whom. However, the room is not effectively organised to ensure children are not cared for in groups larger than 26.

Children have access to a wide range of quality toys and resources, which are checked daily for safety and successfully meet the needs of the children attending. Children have opportunities to relax within the television area, for example, one child lays down on cushions to watch a video. A suitable range of resources depicting diversity enables children to develop a positive attitude to others. Children play safely due to good adult supervision.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through discussion with staff about the setting's rules. They understand the need not to run indoors and how to handle resources safely. Older children are proactive in enabling younger children understand safety issues. They inform them how to hold the snooker cue correctly, for example, 'you don't wave it around because you may hit someone.' Good security systems and effective collection procedures for children successfully maintain their safety. Regular fire drills are carried out to ensure children know and understand the need to evacuate the building quickly and safely.

Children are protected from harm as staff have a clear understanding of child protection issues. Most staff have undertaken child protection training to further enhance their knowledge and understanding. This is supported by the comprehensive child protection policy, which clearly identifies the action staff must take in order to protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and enjoy their time at the setting. Some children are reluctant to go home when their parents arrive as they are interrupting their play and tell them they are too early. Staff build good relationships with the children that enable them to feel safe, secure and happy in their care. Children confidently engage in conversations with staff and visitors. They play well with their peers and enjoy each others company. Older children are supportive of younger children, they provide advice and support especially when completing levels on the games consoles, advising them where to go next and what hazards to avoid.

Children are engaged in a range of self chosen, fun, play opportunities. They are keen to try new activities, such as making bead mats where they spend considerable amounts of time concentrating on their design. They are proud of their achievements and share these with their friends and staff. They enjoy trying new experiences, such as goop. Some children decide that it looks 'spooky' and decide to be monsters with the goop dripping from their fingers as they walk. Children happily tell visitors this is their favourite activity tonight because 'it's messy and fun.'

Children feel a sense of ownership. Staff encourage the children's opinions with regards to activities and future events. Children are vocal about the setting, they confidently tell visitors what they like to do and why they like coming. They are confident to voice their opinions as they ask to go to the park more often and for different activities. Staff use this information to plan future activities and events.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are warmly welcomed into the setting and have equal access to all activities and experiences. Children show respect for one another as they take turns with resources. Staff obtain information from the parents, which enables them to provide suitable care for the children. However, this is hampered by the inconsistencies within the registration forms as some do not include permission for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment. Children learn about their community and the wider world through planned activities, festivals and access to a variety of resources. They confidently ask questions about different faiths and are provided with clear, age appropriate explanations as one child asks what is a holy communion? This means children are developing a positive attitude to others.

Children are generally well behaved. They have devised the club rules and created a poster depicting these. This is prominently displayed within the entrance hall and referred to by staff in discussions with the children. This enables the children to feel a sense of belonging and ownership of the setting. Children are confident to tell others that what they are doing is unacceptable, for example, not sharing. Staff are generally consistent in their approach to managing children's behaviour.

Staff build a positive relationship with parents and carers. Most consents are in place, which means children are cared for in line with their parent's wishes. Parents are kept informed of the activities provided through verbal discussions with the staff and notice boards within the entrance hall. Parents are complimentary about the setting and state their children are very happy here. This is evident as several children had to be persuaded to go home.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well supported by qualified and experienced staff who provide a wide range of interesting activities. Children have a sense of belonging and enjoy their time at the setting. Staff have a secure understanding of their roles and responsibilities, which is supported by effective induction systems and regular team meetings. Staff have good opportunities to extend their knowledge and skills through attending training courses. This means they are able to enhance the children's safety, well-being and enjoyment at the setting.

Detailed policies and procedures are in place, which are understood and effectively implemented by staff. Registers are in place, however, they do not accurately record the actual times of children's attendance. For example, children are signed upon arrival at the setting and not from the time they were collected, and the breakfast club register does not show their departure times. All legally required documentation, which contributes to children's health, safety, and well-being is in place. However, records for previous weeks, such as registers, are not always stored at the setting. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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 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):

- revise the organisation of snack time so children enjoy a relaxed social occasion, which includes routines which contribute to their good health and safety
- revise the organisation of the areas used by children to ensure the group size does not exceed 26
- ensure all records and consents are in place, are available for inspection and registers accurately record children's attendance.

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