



Birdlip After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	510053
Inspection date	26 April 2006
Inspector	Pamela Edna Friling
Setting Address	The Village Hall, Birdlip,, Gloucestershire, GL4 8JH
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	Birdlip After School Club Committee
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?

Birdlip After School Club has been registered since September 2001. The club is located in the village hall, alongside the primary school, in the centre of Birdlip village. Birdlip is a small rural community in Gloucestershire. The village is within easy access of commuter routes to Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud and Cirencester.

The club was set up as a service to parents whose children attend the village school and for teachers children. The club operates each afternoon from 15.15 to 17.45 and may care for a maximum of 20 children at any one time. At present there are 64 children on roll aged from 4 to 11 years of age. Children are cared for within the main

village hall. They have use of the school playground, playing field and adventure play area for outdoor activities.

The club is run by a voluntary management committee. An appropriately qualified leader is employed and she is supported by an assistant. Parents provide cover for illness or staff absence.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an adequately clean and tidy building. They enjoy daily opportunities for physical play and exercise both in the village hall and in the school outdoor play areas.

Children's dietary needs and preferences are clearly recorded to ensure that individual needs are met. Children are kept well hydrated through supervised access to drinks throughout the session.

However, the range of snack foods offered to the children, consisting predominantly of sweet biscuits and crisps, does not encourage them to make healthy choices or extend their understanding of a healthy lifestyle. In addition, hand washing before snacks is not consistently encouraged to reduce the risk of infection to children.

Children's health is protected within an environment where the staff have a clear understanding about treatment for minor injuries. A member of staff qualified in first aid is always present at the club and parents are requested to give prior written consent to ensure that any emergency treatment provided is appropriate. Children's health is further promoted through well thought out procedures for administration and recording of medication and first aid and a clearly documented no smoking policy. Effective exchange of information between parents and the club, prior to care commencing, ensures that individual medical care needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to play freely and safely in the village hall under close supervision of the staff. Arrival and departure routines are well organised to ensure that children are only collected by those authorised to do so. The use of space is well planned. Children are able to choose their own activities from a range of safe and suitable toys, games and equipment. Toys and games are selected by staff prior to the session and laid out appropriately to allow children safe, independent access. Additional resources are not easily accessible to children. However, children are able to request additional play items from the store and demonstrated a clear knowledge of the range of available resources.

Security of the premises is monitored through use of a door alarm to alert staff to

persons entering the hall unannounced or children leaving unsupervised. However, during this inspection the alarm was not activated to provide an audible alert to staff that the door had been opened. Children's safety is further compromised through ineffective routines for children's transition from indoor to outside play. Children are able to choose whether they play indoors or outside and request staff permission for the change of venue. However, there is no effective routine in place for the close supervision of the children as they independently move from the village hall to the playground or vice versa. Staff supervising the play areas have no way of knowing that a child has requested permission and is moving from one play area to another. Consequently, they have no way of monitoring children's safe arrival at the chosen play area.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted because all the required procedures and permissions are in place. In addition staff demonstrate good understanding of child protection procedures and who to refer to if they have concerns about a child in their care. There is a clear child protection policy available to parents. However, this policy does not contain detail of actions that would be taken if there was an allegation made against a staff member.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children attending the club are provided with a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. They organise their own time as they enjoy a range of activities, instigate their own games or interact with staff and friends. The programme allows children freedom of choice from play items, opportunities to be independently creative through easy access to art-and-craft materials and a choice of indoor or outdoor play. Children are fully engrossed and happy in their chosen activities. They are encouraged to suggest activities for the future and ideas for new equipment.

Children have a good relationship with the staff team, with cheerful conversation between children and with adults as they play. Most children play happily together with staff offering individual support to quieter children to ensure they are actively involved. Children's individual interests are recognised and used as a basis for the daily selection, by staff, of appropriate play resources.

Space is organised effectively to allow children undisturbed play with their chosen activity. The well established daily routine helps children settle quickly to the club session.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are made to feel welcome at the club by the staff team who take time to greet the children on arrival. Effective strategies are used to manage children's behaviour. Children are well behaved and co-operative in response to clear boundaries for acceptable behaviour. They respond well to staff who offer praise for

helpfulness and kindness. Children take an active part in setting the rules for the club and as a consequence the atmosphere within the club is both quiet and calm.

Children's understanding of culture, race and disability are extended through suitable, but limited, play resources and books. Club involvement in village and school events helps to extend children's involvement in, and awareness of, the wider village community.

Children benefit from the satisfactory partnership that the staff develop with their parents. A range of written information is provided including an overview of the club and the clearly documented operating policies and procedures. Further information regarding the care offered by the club is shared via the club notice board. The certificate of registration is clearly displayed. Staff take time to talk with parents regarding their child's time at the club.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are made welcome and the premises organised to allow them to play freely in the village hall. However, safety and security issues exist with the monitoring of access to the premises and supervision of children during their move from indoor to outside play.

Children make good use of the resources available to investigate for themselves, building models from construction toys and solving puzzles during electronic game play. Resources overall are of good quality with a wide variety of quality board games and toys offering appropriate challenge. Outside space is used well to allow children freedom to move as they join in organised games or enjoy free play to extend their physical skills. The promotion of healthy living does not extend to the range of snacks offered to the children or the consistent encouragement of their personal hygiene routines.

Procedures for the recruitment and clearance of staff and committee members are in place. Paperwork is organised well and used to promote the welfare of the children. Registers and records all meet regulatory requirements and are easily available. The club recognise the requirement for them to maintain a record of complaints. Emergency numbers are clear and are kept accessible. Permissions and personal information are obtained before the children attend and filed securely for each child. All the necessary policies and procedures are in place to meet children's care needs. The ratio of adults to children is maintained at a satisfactory level so allowing children adequate levels of individual attention. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the club were asked to consider ways to improve the security of the premises, to ensure that children are not able to leave them unsupervised and that visitors access can be monitored. In response to this request the club have

explored ways of increasing security by alerting staff to arrivals and departures at the club door. The main entrance to the hall is a designated fire escape. A buzzer alarm is available on the internal door but is not consistently activated as a staff alert. The club continues to explore options for increased security including effective deployment of staff to ensure the door is closely monitored and children cannot leave unsupervised.

The club were also asked to provide resources and activities which reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability and to consider ways to raise children's awareness of the wider community. Some additional play resources have been provided to extend children's understanding of diversity. Ongoing extension of resources is planned to address this request. Children take an active part in school and village fundraising and social events to extend their involvement in the wider village community and raise the profile of the club within the village.

In addition, the club was asked to identify a deputy and ensure that procedures clearly show the steps to be followed to ensure that minimum ratios are maintained, that children are safe and that the deputy knows what to do in the event of an emergency, including giving first aid treatment. The club employs two staff members to provide care for the children. Minimum ratios are maintained at an acceptable level and in line with the requirements of registration. The playleader holds a recognised qualification at level 3. The assistant does not hold a recognised childcare qualification but is familiar with the operation of the club. She is attending first aid training and available to take over the running of the club in an emergency situation. In the absence of the playleader additional adult support is available, from suitably cleared parents and qualified playgroup staff, to ensure children are cared for appropriately.

Finally, the club were asked to encourage the children to wash their hands prior to eating. Children's health is compromised because hand washing is still not consistently encouraged or well established as part of the daily routine.

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 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):

- promote children's safety by ensuring that staff, through effective deployment and consistent use of door security measures, are fully alert to any adults entering the premises unannounced or children leaving unsupervised
- make sure deployment of staff is effective in providing close supervision of children during the transitions from indoor to outside play and vice versa
- actively promote children's understanding of personal hygiene and healthy eating through reinforcement of hand washing routines and provision of healthy snack options.

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