



Tarleton Community Primary After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	309712
Inspection date	07 March 2006
Inspector	Denise Sixsmith
Setting Address	Tarleton Community Primary School, Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 6AT
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Registered person	The Committee of Tarleton Community Primary ASC
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?

Tarleton Community Primary School After School Club is operated by a committee and has been registered for approximately 8 years. The group cares for children who attend Tarleton Community Primary School. The facility operates from the old school hall, annexe and associated facilities. The children also have access to the school playground which is enclosed for outdoor activities.

A maximum of 40 children may attend the setting at any one time. The club operates from 07:45 to 08:55 and 15.25 to 17.20, Monday to Friday during term time.

There are currently 85 children aged from 4 years on roll. This includes children up to the age of 11 years. Children attend for a variety of sessions and all attend the school. The facility caters for children with special needs.

The committee employs 6 staff to work at the club. All of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate child care qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children attending the club are developing a positive approach to their health through the practices and procedures in place. Older children independently access the facilities to wash their hands. Staff are diligent in ensuring that surfaces are clean and two staff have attended food hygiene training, setting a good example for the children in food hygiene practice. Clear information is in place in relation to the care of sick or ill children. However, the record of medication administered at the group requires updating to ensure that parents signatures are obtained. Children's dietary requirements are collated by staff and stored confidentially for quick reference. Staff take all reasonable steps to prevent cross infection within the group.

The children have opportunities to exercise through the physical activities offered in the outside play area, however, this is dependent on the weather. The space is used adequately to enable the children to engage in group physical activities and the new adventure play area enables children to practice balancing and climbing skills. Children use a range of tools during the varied creative activities and craftwork sessions, as a result, they are developing good fine motor skills.

Snacks and drinks are provided and these offer the children some healthy alternatives. However, a menu is not displayed to reflect the food served and choice is restricted as food is pre-prepared and packaged. Children are learning about healthy food and are aware of what constitutes a healthy food range, because they have free access to fruit during the session. Drinking water is readily available for the children throughout the time they attend, with non-fizzy fruit drinks being available at snack times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure, clean and well maintained environment that is vigorously monitored by the staff. Children can move freely and safely between the different areas because adults are appropriately deployed to ensure children are well supervised. A fire drill procedure is in place to ensure that children are aware of the dangers and what to do in an emergency. However, this has not been practiced on a regular basis in line with policy. Staff have a good awareness of security and a recently developed entrance area and security system ensures that there cannot be any unauthorised access to the children.

Children have free access to a wide range of good quality toys and equipment that are appropriate to their age while presenting them with challenges. They choose resources from the different areas of activity set out for them and are encouraged to tidy away and keep areas in order, to minimise the risk of accidents. Children have access to a quiet area of the room, as well as the annexe room, to enable them to relax, watch television and chat with friends. Children are very aware of safety in the use of the equipment and the club rules with regards to staying safe, to which they have the opportunity to contribute ideas.

Children's welfare is protected satisfactorily through the staffs' clear understanding of their role and responsibilities with regard to child protection issues. The staff do not have knowledge or access to the government's guidance document, but are aware of local contact numbers.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the group because the staff provide a friendly exciting environment ensuring all children's self-esteem and confidence is fostered well. The rooms are set out with a variety of toys and planned activities to enable children to readily engage in activity. Children have ample opportunity to develop their decision making and negotiating skills as they freely chose between self-initiated play or planned activities. They settle readily and happily to the relaxed routine of the group, where the staffs' aim for children to play together in a happy, safe environment is achieved.

Children relate very well to each other and co-operate to achieve an end goal because the staff provide positive and appropriate support. All children develop their creativity while engrossed in stimulating practical activities, such as sewing, junk modelling and decorating cakes. Their imagination is developed very well through the varied role play and dressing up clothes readily available to them. Staff assist children to develop their care and observational skills very successfully through the innovative introduction of an indoor insect garden which enables the children to observe and discuss the daily developments in the life cycle of the Painted Lady butterfly.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel a strong sense of belonging to their group. They are familiar with the building and very comfortable with the easy and relaxed interaction with staff. Their artwork is displayed prominently in the room to provide a welcoming environment for themselves and their parents. Children's views are sought well by staff about favourite resources, which results in a direct input into the planning of future activities. Children are purposefully engaged in activities that foster links with their home, school and the group, including making bookmarks and producing Easter egg designs for the school display. They have good opportunities to celebrate

achievements in home life with the rest of the group on the, 'what have you done to make us feel proud' board.

Children are kind, considerate and thoughtful to each other within the group because the staff provide positive role models. All children are busy and involved in the activities and, as a result, their behaviour is good. Staff have high expectations of the children and offer praise freely, ensuring that they develop confidence and know when they have done well. Children readily offer to help to set and tidy away the tables for activities. They have a voice in the group relating to behaviour issues because the staff encourage them to draw up and display the rules. This ensures that they all feel safe and comfortable, consequently, this promotes positive behaviour. All children are included and valued because the staff are committed to inclusion and provide good quality resources which positively reflect diversity.

Children's needs are met well because warm and friendly relationships have been established between staff and parents and information is shared regularly. Parents enter the group readily and engage in easy conversation with the staff about their children's achievements. They are provided with plenty of information about the group as part of the enrolment procedure and receive regular newsletters, which includes an outline of the forthcoming activities to enable them to contribute to their children's development. Parents demonstrate their support towards the group in a variety of ways, one of which is the provision of resources to enhance the safety as well as the enjoyment factor for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well organised environment because the staff have a clear sense of purpose. Children are happy and can move freely and independently throughout the setting. They are provided with a good balance of activities. Clear policies and procedures are in place, which assist the staff team to work appropriately together to provide a sound service for the children. However, systems have not yet been fully implemented to take account of the recent changes in regulation with regards to recruitment, selection and complaints.

Staff are committed to their own self-development and ensure a good standard of care is provided for the children through their ongoing childcare study. Appropriate monitoring arrangements are in place to ensure the children's welfare is promoted and confidentiality is observed. Children are assisted to develop their independence and create friendships because the staff have organised a stimulating, fun environment.

Overall the needs of the children attending are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous care inspection recommended that the club provide the opportunity for a more healthy and nutritious snack and ensure a range of resources to promote

equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice are available for the children.

Under the leadership of the supervisor, the staff have taken positive steps to improve the nutrition and health content of the snack for the children. They have introduced fruit and non-fizzy drinks at snack time and are continuing to look at ways to continue to enhance the snack content and choice for children. As a result, children are developing their understanding of healthy eating. The efforts to increase the use of resources that reflect diversity to support children's learning have been very successful. This means that children are learning about the wider world effectively as they freely access toys, activities and see wall displays during their time at the group.

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):

- review the child protection statement to ensure that it is based on the procedures laid out in the booklet 'What to Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused - Summary' and practice the emergency evacuation procedure to enhance the welfare and safety of the children
- develop the recruitment, selection and complaints systems to reflect the changes to regulation in October 2005
- ensure parental signatures are obtained on the record of administered medication.

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