



## Snowball Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 206237   |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 25 April 2006  |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Karen Ann Byfleet  |
| <b>Setting Address</b>         | Chapel Infant & Nursery School, Warmbrook Road,<br>Chapel-en-le-Frith, High Peak, SK23 0NL |
| <b>Telephone number</b>        | 01298 813757 + 01298 812000  |
| <b>E-mail</b>                  |  |
| <b>Registered person</b>       | Snowball Club  |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Childcare  |
| <b>Type of care</b>            | 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](http://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?

Snowball Kids Club was registered in 2000 and provides before and after school care for children aged 3 to 11 years who attend Chapel-en-le-Frith Primary School or other local schools.

The Club is committee managed and is independent of the school. It operates from the Key Stage 1 hall of Chapel-en-le-Frith Primary School and is open from 08:00 to 09:00 and from 15:15 to 17:30 each weekday during term time. Children attend for a variety of sessions and there are currently 60 children on roll. The Club currently supports children with special needs. There are no children attending for whom

English is an additional language.

There is a regular staff group of 6, at least 4 of whom attend each session. Three staff hold relevant qualifications, 1 is working towards a qualification and 2 are unqualified, working as assistants. The Club is a member of the Kid's Club Network and is supported by the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Staff promote children's health and well-being through the implementation of the setting's comprehensive policies and procedures. Children are independent in their personal hygiene. They follow daily routines well, such as washing hands before eating and after using the toilet. The consistent hygiene practices followed by all the staff, such as wiping the tables before snack, help to prevent the spread of infection.

Children have a good understanding of healthy eating. They help to plan menus and are actively encouraged by the staff to be independent. For example, they make their own sandwiches from a variety of fillings such as, ham or cheese spread. The children also enjoy other snacks, such as pancakes and toast. A variety of fresh fruit is available to them everyday and they have access to regular drinks throughout the sessions.

The enclosed school playground provides good space where the children are able to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities. They particularly enjoy ball games, such as football and cricket. Staff supervise the children on the fixed climbing frame, which is also available and provides the children with opportunities to develop their physical skills.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are safe in the setting as staff consistently follow clear health and safety procedures and understand and comply with health and safety requirements. Entry to the setting is secure and vigilantly monitored by the staff. They have safe systems for children's collection and supervise children well both indoors and outdoors. Tables of activities are set out well within the room enabling children to move around safely and to make the best use of the space available.

Children learn to protect themselves from harm and avoid accidents. Through regular fire drills they are developing an understanding of safety within the setting. Risk assessments are carried out daily and recorded by staff to eliminate hazards and help keep children safe.

Children's well-being is safeguarded as staff have sound knowledge and understanding of child protection and are aware of the Local Safeguarding Children's

Board procedures.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children have formed good relationships with staff who are friendly and approachable. They arrive happily and settle quickly. The relaxed informal atmosphere enables children to feel comfortable and play well together with their peers. Staff actively encourage the children to co-operate and take turns, for example, when they engage in physical activities, such as a game of cricket or football. Children receive good levels of support from staff who are sensitive and responsive and know when to intervene.

Children are able to choose from a wide range of activities which are attractively set out before their arrival. They are encouraged by the staff, to be involved in the planning and activities are changed according to children's requests and wishes. Staff also encourage the children to help with the purchase of new resources. For example, they have recently been looking through a catalogue and choosing new toys. Children's opportunities to access resources independently is encouraged, enabling them to make their own choices, develop their own ideas and fulfil their enjoyment.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are very content and have a good sense of belonging to the club. They are able to make choices about their activities and share responsibility for decisions. Their involvement in making and discussing club rules, compliment those implemented by the staff and means they are clear about what is expected of them. They are familiar with daily routines and form good relationships with staff and their peers. Their confidence and self-esteem is developed as staff value what they have to say and acknowledge their achievements.

Children are well behaved and polite. The sensitivity of the staff helps children to negotiate disagreements and to understand and respect one another's feelings. Good relationships between the club and the school, and the effective systems which are in place, ensure any children with special needs who may attend the setting receive consistent care.

Relationships with parents are friendly and positive. Staff talk informally with parents about their children's activities in the club and share information about the children's interests. However, information regarding any incidents which have occurred, although they are recorded, parents are not asked to sign as acknowledgement of being informed.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's needs are met through the effective organisation by the supervisor and staff. Good recruitment and selection procedures are in place to ensure all staff are vetted and suitable to care for children. Staff work well as a team, they understand their roles and responsibilities and therefore are able to support children successfully. The settings comprehensive policies and procedures are understood and followed by the staff, enabling them to take appropriate steps to protect children and promote their well-being. However, the committee for the setting do not fully undertake an active role in how the setting operates.

Children's individual choices are promoted well by the way resources are organised and the planning systems ensure children are offered a good balance of activities both indoors and outdoors. Overall the provision meets the needs of all the children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

The setting has made good improvements since the last inspection. Space is now available where children are able to undertake quieter activities, complete homework and read books away from the main play room. This helps to ensure children have a choice and that their individual needs are met. Children are included in devising and implementing 'club rules', planning activities and snacks and being able to help staff decide on new toys and equipment for the club. This gives them a sense of ownership and ensures a suitable range of activities are available which is appropriate for the mixed ages of children who attend.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints received by 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 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):

- ensure parents sign acknowledgement of all recorded incidents
- ensure the committee are kept fully informed of the club's practice.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)