



The Lighthouse Club @ St James the Great

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	107583
Inspection date	06 July 2006
Inspector	Debra Davey
Setting Address	St James the Great School, Peckham Road, London, SE15 5LP
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Registered person	Lighthouse Children's Foundation
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Lighthouse After School Club is privately owned by the Lighthouse association. It opened in 1998 and operates from the St James the Great Primary School. A maximum of 40 children aged under eight years may attend and the club also caters for children over this age, and they collect from the St Francis school. The club is open each weekday from 15:30 to 18:15 during term time. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 24 children aged from four to 11 years on roll. Most children

attend the School. The club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs five members of staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate play work qualification and one staff is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children learn about basic health routines in the after school club. For example, they take responsibility for their personal care when using the bathroom and fully understand the need to wash hands using the liquid soap provided. The environment is generally clean and staff ensure that toys washed to prevent cross infection.

Children are well nourished and enjoy a range of healthy snacks such as sandwiches and fruit. They have free access to drinks throughout the session. Children's physical development is well supported through a good range of creative sport activity such as basketball, hockey and football. They also enjoy activities that help them to develop their fine motor skills such as knitting and free art. Children are well cared for when unwell because there are clear procedures for medication and accidents are recorded and countersigned by parents. There is one staff member qualified in first aid procedures but in her absence this does not ensure that children are well protected in the event of an emergency. However, there is a fully equipped first aid box and details obtained from parents about children's medical history.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are secure in the indoor and outdoor environment and supervised well, by experienced staff who work in the school and therefore get to know them. However, policies and procedures for overseeing children's safety are insufficient; the system of risk assessment does not fully guarantee that children's welfare is safeguarded. For example, the indoor area of the club has a low level kitchen that is accessible to children and contains appliances that are hot to the touch when in use. There are day to day hazards such as trailing wires within children's reach, which means that younger children attending are at risk from pulling tape recorders or televisions on top of themselves, thereby causing injury. There is a fire evacuation procedure in place, but no evidence that staff have discussed or practiced the fire procedure recently with children. As a result, children may not know what to do in the event of an emergency.

Children's welfare and safety is further compromised as staff have not had recent training in child protection and as a consequence knowledge and understanding of keeping children safe from harm is lacking. However, staff employed at the club who also work in the school have attended in service training and have a sufficient

knowledge to identify and report issues to the manager. In this way, existing procedures are put into practice, but staff training is essential to ensure that children are protected in line with the new Safeguarding children guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have ready access to a range of games, toys and art materials. They readily select games to play with their friends such as "connect 4" and "lotto." They clearly have fun, relaxing with their friends at the end of the school day. Activities give children the opportunity to join in with table top games, outdoor sports and craft activities, such as knitting. Some children choose to spend their time quietly at the club, either doing their homework or reading their books and the organisation of space and resources allows for this. Outdoor play is popular and the flexible routine ensures that children are well supervised and able to freely access the outdoor area of the school throughout the session.

Children have shared responsibility of the planned programme of activities when making suggestions and discussing their ideas during weekly circle time; this ensures that their views are sought and valued. However, plans for new ideas are not regularly updated so may not relate specifically to children attending. Children are able to choose when to play in or out of doors, and initiate their own games and activities. This promotes children's independence and ensures that they have a relaxed and happy time at the club.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children and staff get to know each other well and useful information is obtained from parents, to enable staff to provide for children's individual needs. Children enjoy celebrations of Christian festivals such as Easter and Christmas in the after school club and there is a book library that includes books to positively reflect other cultures. However, there are limited resources to help them learn about other religions and faiths. There are systems in place to ensure that the needs of children attending with learning difficulties or disabilities are met through a clear inclusion policy and an appointed worker.

Children behave well overall and show respect for one another. For example, they share equipment well during art activities and they are able to play games following the rules and noting the scores. The atmosphere of the club is calm due to good verbal interaction between children and staff. This has a positive impact on children's behaviour and well-being. Effective communication with the school and with parents ensures that behaviour concerns are shared appropriately. This ensures that children are well supported and good behaviour is discussed; thereby promoting children's awareness and self esteem.

Relationships with parents are fostered fairly well through daily discussions and there

is a parents notice board which provides details of basic activity plans and the daily routine.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are supervised by experienced staff who get to know them well. However, whilst the manager is appropriately trained, other staff do not hold child care or first aid qualifications which puts children at risk from poor organisation. Arrangements for cover for senior staff absence does not ensure that the person in day to day charge of the setting holds a level 3 qualification. This means that staff are not likely to have a thorough understanding of the National Standards for Out of school care.

Documentation regarding children's needs, such as admission forms and attendance register are clearly recorded and stored appropriately. However, knowledge and understanding of procedures are not shared with senior staff in the absence of the manager. This means for example, that documentation relating to staff checks and fire drill records are not available on the premises. As a consequence, there are poor systems in place to ensure that staff are well informed about the requirements for registration and achieving positive outcomes for children.

Overall, the setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Improvements since last inspection have been limited because the provider was asked to conduct a risk assessment to identify and minimise risks to children on the premises; this has not been completed effectively. As a result, children remain at risk from safety issues in the setting that have not been addressed.

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:

<p>The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care</p>

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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- make sure enough staff are trained in first aid to ensure that at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate is on the premises or on outings at any one time
- assess the risks to children in relation to trailing electrical wires, low level kitchen appliances and take action to minimise these
- develop and implement an action plan that sets out how supervisors will achieve a level 3 qualification
- develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare
- ensure that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times

These actions are set out in a **notice of action to improve** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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