



## Careclub Ltd

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY239403
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Elizabeth Margaret Grocott
<b>Setting Address</b>	Ladymount R.C Primary School, Portal Road, Pensby, Wirral, CH61 5YH
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<b>Registered person</b>	Careclub Ltd
<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?

Careclub Ltd is one of three out of school facilities run by Careclub Ltd. It opened in September 2002 and operates from several areas within Ladymount RC Primary School in Pensby on the Wirral peninsular. The group is primarily for the children who attend Ladymount School.

A maximum of 40 children under eight may attend the club at any one time, although children aged up to 11 may attend. The club is open each weekday from 08:00 to 09:00 and 15:30 to 17:30 in term time only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 139 children on roll of whom 77 are aged from four to eight years. The club currently supports children with learning difficulties. They employ five members of staff, of these, all have appropriate early years qualifications or are working towards these.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment. They are encouraged to develop good personal hygiene practices, such as hand washing before snack time and following physical activities outside. Children's health is promoted well by the staff's clear understanding of procedures. Most staff members possess current first aid certificates, further ensuring children's safety.

Staff take appropriate steps to ensure children's individual dietary needs are met. For example, parents inform the club of any allergies their child has and staff make sure the food and drink they provide is suitable. Snack time is used as a social occasion when children sit down together, listen to each other and discuss their day. Topics covered and snacks provided encourage children's understanding of healthy eating. For example they have breadsticks, rice cakes and fresh fruit as well as making their own plates of 'healthy food' in an art activity connected to the topic.

Children understand their bodies and know when they need a drink. They are able to access fresh drinking water at any time. When playing outside in the school playground, for example, children easily seek drinks from a jug prepared earlier.

Children enjoy taking part and participating in a wide range of activities that contribute to keeping them healthy. They use indoor and outdoor activities on a daily basis to develop their physical skills. Children enjoy physical games, such as skipping, football and various team games. These activities help children to develop their self-confidence and contribute to their good health and physical development.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well-organised environment. Older children can play without interruptions from younger children and can follow their own interests because of the layout of the rooms. All areas are bright, with lots of natural light and decorated with children's artwork and posters making it most welcoming for children and visitors. This helps to develop the children's sense of belonging. Display boards contain useful information for parents and helps them to understand the day-to-day running of the provision for a good partnership between parents and staff.

Children independently select toys and activities from a range of good quality play resources. They are well supervised by staff who ensure that the resources are appropriate for the ages, interests and developmental stages of the children. All

resources are checked on a weekly basis and any that do not have continued suitability are recorded in the defective equipment log.

Children are learning about taking responsibility and keeping themselves safe by the staff's encouragement of practical issues. Procedures are in place to ensure children's safe transition between the club and school at the beginning of the day and equally when they return to the club at the end of the school day. Induction procedures are effective as newly appointed staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities. Staff complete health and safety checks daily, another procedure to ensure that the care they give contributes to children's all round enjoyment at the club.

Children's welfare is promoted as there is an appropriate child protection policy and staff have a clear understanding of the procedure to follow should they have any concerns about a child.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Warm and caring relationships are formed between children and staff as they talk and share jokes together whilst playing. They arrive at the club happy and eager to join in with the range of activities provided. The children are confident and interested in their surroundings, interacting well with staff and each other. Children are involved and consulted in planning the activities, helping to ensure that their individual needs are being met and enjoyment fulfilled.

Children are able to access a range of activities. For example, in the early morning they select from board games, small world play, craft and a football game on the computer. They amicably share and take turns, as they agree the rules for the club. Just before the start of the school day children join in a game of 'Guess Who'. The children thoroughly enjoy this game and the laughter and sheer delight in the achievement that staff and children do not guess correctly, make it a resounding success. This sends the children off into school in a really good mood.

In the afternoon children can choose to play indoors or out, when weather allows, with a range of activities.

Staff listen and respond well to the children. They encourage and help develop children's suggestions and ideas, for different games. For example, they provide 'scoobies' and the children turn them into little people. Straws are used to make a weaving frame and children design their own football in time for a competition to celebrate the World Cup.

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

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to feel valued as they are welcomed individually when they arrive, have their work displayed and their ideas and suggestions implemented. They

have access to resources that reflect different cultures and disabilities. As part of the planned programme, children are encouraged to take part in a range of activities to gain an awareness of festivals and celebrations, for example, St George's Day, Diwali and Chinese New Year.

Children with learning difficulties are involved and supported to enjoy and participate in all activities provided. Children are valued and respected and in turn, show respect for each other. They offer help and support as needed, for example, when playing games, craft and enjoying sport activities. Children's behaviour is consistently good and their understanding of right and wrong is increased as they respond to gentle reminders to care for their environment, the club resources and each other. A recent topic connected with behaviour includes a talk on 'Bully Busters'.

Parents are welcomed into the club as staff have a friendly approach. Staff provide verbal feedback for parents at the end of the session to ensure they are aware about their child's care and individual needs. Staff ensure information about the provision is displayed where parents can access it and provide a condensed copy of the policies and procedures for parents at registration. A half termly newsletter 'The Careclub Courier', is produced, which contains the newsletter, reminders, quotes and jokes and information about topics, fundraising and quality assurance.

An appropriate procedure is in place to record any complaints made regarding the care that is provided.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The excellent organisation and planning of the club enables children to feel relaxed. The routine is designed to support children having freedom of choice and opportunities for spontaneous activities, as the children develop their own ideas and play. Staff have a supportive working relationship, their good communication skills enables each member to be aware of the others' movements at any time. There is a robust recruitment and staff relief system which promotes continuity of care for children and families. Regular team meetings take place to ensure that the club is meeting its aims.

All policies and procedures are individual to the setting, robust and fully support the expert practice of knowledgeable and highly skilled staff. They consistently give priority to protecting all children, promoting their well-being and supporting all to develop their potential and to have fun.

Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The last childcare inspection recommended that the club seek guidance on possible diets which could be provided within the setting, as there were limited facilities available. At the time the group offered biscuits and juice for the children's snack.

However, after taking advice from Wirral Health Community, a range of healthy options are available at breakfast and in the after school club, encouraging children in forming good habits for the future.

### **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 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):

- continue to build the range of resources that reflect diversity in society.

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)