



Kirkoswald After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	317439
Inspection date	11 May 2006
Inspector	Diane Roberts
Setting Address	Kirkoswald C of E School, Kirkoswald, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 1EN
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Registered person	Kirkoswald After School Club
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kirkoswald After School Club is a committee-run facility. It opened in 1999 and operates from three rooms in Kirkoswald Church of England School. It is situated in the village of Kirkoswald, Cumbria. A maximum of 16 children may attend the club at any one time.

The club is open each week day from 15.30 to 18.00 for term time only. Children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 70 children aged from 4 to under 11 years on roll. Children come

from the village and the surrounding area. The club currently supports a number of children with special educational needs. There are no children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs two staff. Both of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and well-being is fully supported by staff that have a secure knowledge of the out of school club's health and hygiene policies and procedures. Children are very independent in self-help skills, for example they apply their own spread to their bread and pour their own drinks. They confidently follow good hygiene practices such as hand washing and drying before handling food, following the positive role models shown by the staff. Children are encouraged to see to their own toileting needs and independently visit the bathroom.

Children thoroughly enjoy physical activity and effectively learn about healthy living. They enjoy the free play and adult-initiated activities available in the pleasant surroundings. Children benefit from the wide range of activities available in the enclosed outdoor play area. They can freely run on the sloping, impact absorbing material, climb up to the bird hide or the raised-bed vegetable garden or run around the school playground leading directly from the club room. They enjoy physical exercise, learning about movement in the activities provided, for example, children play football and chasing games in the school playground and one day a week they have a sport night with table tennis, cricket, basketball, rounders and badminton. There are places both indoors and outside where children can take a rest, read a book or simply enjoy the view. Children appreciate the activities provided and their concentration and interest is maintained throughout the session.

Children enjoy the social occasion of sitting at the table eating their snack and chatting about their day. They are able to choose from a range of spreads for their bread, variety of biscuits or selection of fruit. Children are provided with regular sugar-free drinks and fresh drinking water is readily available. Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet as they choose what vegetables they wish to grow in the raised garden behind the bird hide. The choice of vegetables ranges from garlic and marrow to aubergine. Children cultivate the vegetables, watering and feeding them, assisted by staff. When the vegetables are ready, children pick them and are encouraged to taste the different varieties and choose what dishes they will be used for.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, warm, welcoming and well-maintained environment.

They confidently and safely move around the club room and outdoors, helping themselves to a range of easily accessible, age appropriate resources and activities. Staff offer at least one organised activity a session, but children are also able to safely access a wide range of other games and activities, thereby maintaining stimulation and interest.

Children are kept safe and secure when playing inside and outdoors in the playground and surrounding play area. Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff are conscientious in reducing potential hazards. Staff have a good recognition of the need for a balance between freedom and safe limits, and ensure the environment is safe before the session starts. This means that children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Children's and staff attendance is recorded and secure systems are in place to protect children from un-vetted persons and to prevent them leaving the provision unsupervised. Children begin to understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, not climbing onto tables or making sure they play within designated areas when outside.

Children are fully protected by staff who have a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures and give priority to children's welfare. Staff undertake additional relevant training and child protection policies and procedures are in line with current legislation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and contented. They settle well and delight in their time at the out of school club. They are enthusiastic and self-assured in their play, helping themselves to the interesting and stimulating activities and resources available. Children engage very well in a broad range of exciting activities to foster their all round development, for example, throughout the week they can choose from a great range of arts and crafts, cookery, computers and sports including table tennis, cricket, basketball and badminton. Children are confident, asking questions, taking initiative and responding well to challenge. They are eager to learn and confident to try new experiences, for example the children make biscuits in the shape of a bat. They choose the recipe, measure out the ingredients, cut the shapes and then ice the biscuits when cooked and cooled. Children are able to do these tasks independently, but with plenty of available support from staff if needed. Children are encouraged to use their imagination, for instance two children have great fun entertaining others by pretending to be a dog with owner, running around the playground and chasing after a stick. Children develop high self-esteem and respect for others. They become aware of their own needs and the needs of others. For instance, children are encouraged to help each other at snack time, when cooking and clearing up after activities.

Children benefit from close and caring relationships with staff which increases their sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self. Adult-child interactions are very supportive of communication skills and extend experiences. Children relate kindly to each other and socialise well, building up good relationships with staff and

other children. They begin to distinguish between right and wrong and learn to take turns and share resources. A flexible approach to planning and a good balance between adult and child-led activities allows children to make choices and decisions and acquire new skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children and parents are made very welcome. Their individual needs are known and met well by staff in discussion with their parents. Children's understanding of equality is promoted through activities that encourage equal play, for example older and younger children play together and support each other in baking activities and when gardening.

Children's behaviour is good and they respond well to the staff's effective strategies of giving time to listen, praising achievements, providing individual support and comfort and being respectful at all times. Adult handling of behaviour is consistent and developmentally appropriate, respecting individual's children's level of understanding and maturity. Children develop self-esteem and confidence as they confidently voice their opinions, make choices and decisions.

Relationships with parents are very good. Information about their child and the activities of the setting is shared daily. Parents are able to share information with confidence and their views and concerns are respected and acknowledged. Policies, procedures and documentation are readily available. All parents are given a clear informative leaflet about the service and an easy to read newsletter is issued every half term keeping parents in touch.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The committee uses effective recruitment procedures and appropriately vets and checks staff have suitable qualifications. The two members of staff work very well together as a team, complimenting one another's skills and experience. They have a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities, making sure children's health, enjoyment and achievement are well promoted. The adult-to-child ratio fully supports children's care, learning and play.

Children are cared for in a well-equipped environment. The premises are very well organised. Indoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children and to encourage them to feel at home and at ease within the environment. This ensures they are confident and assured to initiate and extend their own play and learning during child-initiated play and planned activities. The provision of a good, accessible outdoor play area broadens children's learning opportunities, enhances physical development and provides healthy exercise.

Documentation, policies and procedures are in place, which enable the smooth

running of the setting and generally promotes children's safety and welfare. However, accident records are not consistently maintained due to the omission of information on the occasional record. Risk assessments are generally in place, but are not consistently reviewed with the addition of new resources or a change to the environment. Children and parents are kept well informed as information is shared verbally on a daily basis and through an information leaflet and regular newsletters. The newsletters include good information about the setting in general, including names of the committee, the daily programme, fund raising events with the financial outcome and further resources made available. Children receive a very good level of individual attention as the staff-to-child ratios promote this. Individual needs are well known, all children are fully included, made to feel valued and good about themselves.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting agreed to review their collection policy to ensure that children are kept safe at all times. The setting has since reviewed their policy and has made changes accordingly. Now, the teacher of each class in the school reads out the list of club attendees each afternoon. This ensures that children are fully aware whether they are attending the club or not and do not mistakenly leave the building, thereby securing their safety. It was also agreed that children needed areas to relax. The setting has now included floor cushions for indoor use and benches and a "chill out" area for outdoor use, thereby offering good opportunities for rest and relaxation.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints made to Ofsted since 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.
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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 risk assessments to ensure they are accurate and current
- improve documentation following accidents

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