



Stowford Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 106233
Inspection date 03 May 2006
Inspector Leoarna Mathias

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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?

Stowford Out of School Club opened in 1995. It operates from a temporary classroom within the grounds of Stowford Primary School in Ivybridge. The provision is privately owned, catering for local children who attend the primary school. There is a suitable outdoor play area and children also have supervised access to the school fields.

The group opens five days a week during term times. Sessions are held before and after school from 08:00 to 09:00 and 15:15 to 18:00. The setting does not provide care during school holidays. There are 30 children on roll.

Two part time staff work directly with the children. The person in charge holds an National Nursery Examinations Board qualification, and her support staff meet the minimum qualification requirements. The group receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health needs are appropriately promoted by staff, who maintain hygiene through encouraging children to wash their hands, and keeping surfaces used for play and snack clean. Children access reasonably healthy items at snack time, and enjoy being involved in the preparation of food. Drinks are readily available. Children have access to regular outside play that promotes the development of their physical skills, using the school playground areas for football and other ball games. Clear documentation systems ensure that accidents, administration of medicines and other medical issues are properly recorded and the information is fully shared with parents. Staff are first aid trained, and first aid resources are easily accessible.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment where hazards are minimised through the use of effective risk assessment systems that are supported by the school. Fire drills are regularly held and evaluated by staff to ensure children are safe in an emergency. Children access a spacious classroom, a pleasing toilet area and a secure outside play area which is continuously available in good weather, and are properly supervised throughout. Visitors to the club are promptly recorded, promoting the security of children, and systems for escorting children from school to the club work well in practice. Staff have a clear approach to matters of child protection as a result of training, thus promoting children's welfare. Only minor amendments to the child protection policy are needed in order to bring it fully in line with the requirements of the National Standards.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are familiar with the routines of the club, and settle quickly to activities upon arrival. Pleasing relationships between children and staff are in evidence, as staff take an interest in their lives and their school day. A good range of activities and resources are on offer at each session for children to choose from, and the provision of quiet areas meets the needs of children who need to rest or complete homework. Staff plan regular art and craft activities, while at the same time recognising the need to respect children's need to choose how they spend their time while attending.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The good levels of daily exchanged information between parents and staff mean that children's family lives and individual needs are well known to staff; this ensures that children receive a warm welcome and enjoy good levels of continuity of care between home and the setting. Children respond well to staff, who are positive role models for behaviour, setting a good example as to how to respect and care for the needs of others. Reward systems for positive behaviour also work well. Appropriate equal opportunities and special educational needs policies are in place, and staff work hard to successfully support and include children with particular needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Stowford Out of School Club meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. There are good ratios of staff to children, allowing staff to organise their supervision of children appropriately. Staff appointment and vetting procedures are sensible and in line with the regulatory requirements, and staff meet minimum qualification levels. Documentation systems, such as the attendance register and the registration forms, are in reasonable order, although again minor changes to the complaints policy are necessary in order to bring it fully in line with the National Standards.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group were asked to ensure that they were meeting the requirements of the Fire Safety Officer, and to improve staff's knowledge of child protection procedures. Since the last inspection the group have moved classrooms, and this room does now meet the requirements of the Fire Safety Officer, and staff have attended NSPCC child protection training, thus improving children's access to a safe environment where their welfare is promoted.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints since registration. 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):

- include a procedure for dealing with an allegation of abuse against a member of staff within the child protection policy
- ensure that the complaints policy accurately reflects the role of the regulator, and that parents are made aware of the complaints log.

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