



Greystones After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 300772 |
| Inspection date | 05 July 2006 |
| Inspector | Sarah Gilpin |
| Setting Address | Tullibardine Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S11 7GL |
| Telephone number | 0114 2670087 |
| E-mail | |
| Registered person | Greystones 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?

Greystones After School Club opened in 1995. It operates from two rooms in a self-contained unit in the grounds of Greystones Primary School and cares for children who attend the school. The children have access to toilet facilities and the outdoor play area is adjacent to the provision.

The club is registered to care for 32 children at any one time and there are currently 75 children on roll who attend a variety of sessions each week. There is provision for children with special needs and for children who speak English as a second language. The club opens five days each week during school term times and

sessions are from 15.20 to 18.00, Monday to Friday and 08.30 to 17.30 on school inset days.

Four staff work with the children, three hold suitable qualifications and one is on a training programme. There are supply staff available to provide emergency cover. The group receives support from the Sheffield Out of School Network and they are members of '4 Children', formerly Kids Club Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a self-contained provision, which is clean and maintained to a good standard. Staff follow the group's health and hygiene procedures well, which ensures children's good health is promoted. For example, the hand washing routine is understood and followed by the children and staff as they clean themselves before snack time. There are clear procedures for recording all accidents, however, the record does not always show full details of the children involved. The staff administer medication to the children when necessary and a complete record is kept and this is routinely shared with parents. Information relating to notifiable diseases is kept and the staff understand the requirement to notify Ofsted.

The staff ensure that snack times are fun and interesting by planning food related activities, such as making fruit kebabs, which successfully encourages children to try new and healthy food tastes. Children enjoy regular drinks throughout the session because jugs of juice and water and disposable cups are provided on a low table. When the children play outside the table is moved to be easily accessible. The staff recognise the importance of keeping cool on hot days and they provide children with ice-pops. Details of the children's individual dietary needs and allergies are obtained from parents to ensure they are protected from unsuitable foods. Snack times are relaxed and sociable occasions in the club and children sit together to share news.

The successful organisation of the group means that children can rest and relax on the cosy sofas while reading and chatting to their friends. Children enjoy the benefits of fresh air and exercise each day. They enthusiastically use the outdoor play space and available resources, such as the roller skates and skate boards, which they use to propel themselves around the yard. Children practise their football skills and use small balls and rackets with confidence and control. Indoor creative activities, such as painting and cutting means children are developing their hand-eye coordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy being in the safe and secure environment. Staff implement the club's safety procedures. For example, they check the outdoor area and equipment each day to ensure that they remain safe for the children to use and they closely supervise the children as they play. There are detailed policies, such as the lost and

uncollected child policy, which meet requirements and ensure that staff can act in the children's best interests. In addition, the children are protected and have a growing awareness of their personal safety because the staff practise the fire escape procedures on a regular basis taking account of attendance patterns. Staff make effective use of the children's signing in and out sheet to ensure they have up to date information, such as which children are still present each session and this is used to check who is present during the fire drill.

The equipment and resources, which are provided for the children, are of good quality and meet the required safety standard. They are organised by the staff to be easily accessible for all of the children. Staff ensure that items are maintained and checked regularly to make certain they remain safe for the children to use. They supervise children closely when they use scissors as they engage in creative activities and remind them of their own safety and that of their friends.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff understand their role in child protection. There are detailed procedures, which are in line with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, to ensure that staff act appropriately to deal with any concerns raised about a child in their care. The robust recruitment and vetting procedures mean that children are only cared for by adults who are suitable.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy time spent with their friends and the staff in the group. They are provided with a wide variety of suitable activities, which ensures they can make choices and operate independently. They use all areas of the premises, enjoying role play, cosy sofas for chatting to their friends, creative play and outdoor physical activities. Children play well together and support one another as they try to balance on the skate board. They share and take turns at the pool table and play tennis in pairs in the yard.

The children enjoy very warm and friendly relationships with the staff. There is an easy-going atmosphere in the club and staff engage with the children to extend and support their activities. Children like to include staff in their play, such as tennis and take delight when they have a rally or win a point.

The staff plan interesting activities around a particular theme, for example, the 'Football World Cup', to develop children's knowledge of other countries and cultures. Displays around the club celebrate the finished products of planned creative work and children can return to complete work they start because there is ample storage for unfinished items. The role play area is changed on a frequent basis to offer children a wide variety of experiences and to enable them to act out from their own personal experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are cared for by adults who take time to get to know them. Equipment and resources are organised effectively by the staff to ensure that children can access them easily. Staff work closely with the children to set a good example and offer positive role models. For example, they join games and take turns with the children. The children are encouraged by the staff to recognise the needs of their friends and they respond by taking turns fairly at games or helping their friends to succeed at new activities. The variety of resources available to the children are not gender stereotyped and reflect the diverse nature of society. There is suitable provision for children with special needs and those who speak English as an additional language because the staff operate an inclusive provision and support all children as they play.

The children's behaviour is good and they respond well to staff and have a good understanding of the rules of the club in relation to safety. They follow the reminders from staff when they are playing outside and the children know the boundaries set by the staff because these are clearly explained. For example, the children are reminded not to climb around the back of the building where they are out of sight.

Staff establish successful relationships with the parents. A good range of relevant information is easily accessible to them because staff use a parents' notice board to pass on information. The club's policy file is available for them to read and the club's information leaflet is updated each year to provide information for parents about changes in staff or alterations to the provision. Daily verbal communication ensures that staff and parents are kept up to date with the children's changing needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The club is well organised to ensure that children enjoy their time there. There is a simple routine of the day, which means that children have time to finish their snack before engaging in creative or physical play activities. The required staff-to-child ratios are met at the club and support staff are used effectively to ensure that the children are supported well as they play. Children are cared for by staff who are knowledgeable and understand the importance of play because they attend regular training courses to ensure they are up to date with current play work practice.

There are robust systems in place for the recruitment and vetting of staff who work with the children. These include, Criminal Records Bureau vetting checks and references. New staff complete an induction procedure, which ensures they know and implement the club's policies and procedures. All of the required documentation is in place to support the staff in the care of the children, although the organisation of the complaints record means that confidentiality is compromised. The children's attendance is accurately recorded as they arrive and depart and medication and incident recording is clear and routinely shared with the parents.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom care is provided.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record contains 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 that accident records always contain the required detail
- maintain confidentiality when recording complaints.

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