



St Patricks Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY283573
Inspection date	19 July 2005
Inspector	Lesley Jane Bott
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Registered person	St Patricks 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St Patricks Out of School Club registered 2004. It operates from a mobile classroom unit within the grounds of St Patricks primary school. The group has the use of one classroom and toilet facilities. There is a fully enclosed outside play area.

The group operates term time only and is open from 7:45 until 8:45 and 15:30 until 18:30. Currently there are 55 children on roll. The Club supports two children with special needs. All children speak English as their first language.

Four staff work with the children. Two have appropriate qualifications in childcare and

education, and one is currently working towards a qualification.

The group is a member of Kids Club Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm clean setting, where staff ensure the importance of good personal hygiene is promoted, for example ensuring that toilets are fully stocked with liquid soap and towels before children arrive, and the setting is clean. Written consent to seek emergency medical advice and treatment is in place for children which ensures that they are fully protected. Children enjoy physical exercise outside and learn the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle as they link this to their topic on healthy eating. They choose activities themselves and have the option of being active or playing quietly.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. Children are offered drinks throughout the session as well as being able to help themselves to water at any time. They enjoy varied meals with a choice at both the breakfast and after school club. Staff work with parents to comply with all special dietary requirements to ensure children remain healthy and safe.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have use of a sufficient range of safe, good quality appropriate resources. These are well organised on low shelving to encourage independent access. Staff explain to children safe practices, such as tidy up time and putting toys away before getting others out.

Children are cared for in a reasonably safe and secure environment where risks are only adequately minimised. The door to the mobile unit is not locked and children can leave the setting unsupervised or unauthorised visitors could enter at any time. Also the current register does not show when children leave at the end of the day.

Children are not fully protected, staff have not attended current training or have allocated a designated person. Therefore they are not up to date with procedures and do not understand their responsibilities in respect of the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children show a strong sense of belonging as they greet each other and practitioners on arrival. They show and speak proudly about their work and put on impromptu

shows for each other and the staff. Children use their imagination in play and their experiences with music and song, particularly in the show. They are generally engaged and interested in their play as they select and carry out activities independently. Children are friendly and show care and concern for others. They speak confidently and share their experiences.

Children's individual needs are met well with choice of indoor and outdoor activities being available to them. This is achieved well with staff planning for each term. Children's imagination is developed well by staff in allowing them to develop their independence and confidence within the safety of the group.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their individual needs are satisfactorily met as the staff allow children to play with all equipment available to them, and ensuring that children with special needs are welcomed into the club. However resources reflecting equal opportunities and positive images are limited and do not always increase children's awareness of diversity.

Clear behaviour management methods, including the effective use of a written behaviour policy help children develop their understanding of what is right and wrong. Children are very well behaved and polite in response to the staff and their requests. They take turns and play well together with board games.

Good methods are in place to develop the partnership with parents. Staff are available to talk to parents at the end of the day, and pass on any information sent from school.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel very confident and at home in the well organised environment. The staff successfully use policies and procedures to support the well-being and care of the children. Although most documentation is in place improvement needs to be made in completing the register of children's attendance on a daily basis to ensure staff are aware of how many children are in the building at any one time. Although a written policy for complaints is displayed this does not refer parents to Ofsted or include address details.

There is a sufficient level of staff that have appropriate child care qualifications and first aid on site. However currently staff do not undertake any training programme to update their knowledge and understanding.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report

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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):

- ensure staff attend and further their experience by attending child protection courses
- ensure that the premises are secure and children unable to leave unsupervised
- ensure complaints policy informs parents of who to contact if they want to make a complaint
- devise and implement a plan to ensure that register at all times indicates how many children on site.

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