



Quality Extended Schools Team at Stoke Prior (QEST)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY287452
Inspection date	06 June 2005
Inspector	Ann Doreen Burford

Setting Address	Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 4ND
Telephone number	01527832520 or 07910114988 Qest phone
E-mail	qestclubs@hotmail.com
Registered person	Helen Guyler and Denise Phelps
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?

Quality Extended Schools Team, Stoke Prior opened in 2004. It operates from the First School in the village of Stoke Prior. The group serves the local area.

There are currently 28 children from 4 years to 8 years on roll. Children aged over 8 attend the group. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group opens five days a week for after school and school holidays. Sessions are from 15:00 until 18:00 term time and 07:30 until 18:00 during school holidays.

There are currently six staff working with the children on a rota basis. Of these, three

have early years qualifications to NVQ level three. There are two members of staff are currently working towards an early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The health of children is promoted in the setting through staff's procedures and practices, especially in regard to their physical development and nutrition. Very good emphasis is given to children's physical play. Children are able to participate in activities from 'Active Club' as devised by the British Heart Foundation. Staff have accessed training to enable them to fully provide the activities from this framework. They also use the excellent outdoor facilities when possible. These include an adventure area, large playing field and a lovely natural area of trees and wild flowers.

Children enjoy the social interaction at snack time. This time is used for children to express their ideas and opinions as they chat with the staff. There is a choice and range of healthy options provided for snacks and drinks. Children have access to fresh drinking water at all times. Special diets and allergies are recorded and respected by the staff.

Good hygiene is followed by children and staff. Children know the procedures for good hand washing, for example they readily follow the routine to wash their hands to get ready for snack time.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in well maintained premises with very good facilities. The hall is well set out to enable children to move freely and safely. The excellent outdoor area is fully enclosed and is maintained to a high standard. Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety requirements. Children can ask for additional resources at anytime during the session. All toys are kept in a storage area off the main hall. Staff quickly assess situations and adapt the routine to ensure safety of the children is never compromised, for example not using the outdoor area when being sprayed with chemicals.

The setting has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. Security is made paramount. This includes the use of passwords for the safe collection of children if necessary. Some staff hold a current first aid certificate and some have also accessed child protection training. Some risk assessments have been completed and are under review and further development.

Staff show a clear understanding of child protection procedures and take appropriate action to ensure children's needs are paramount. They understand their duty of care

and this is shared with parents in the parents' handbook.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

All children are keen to attend and reluctant to leave as they have so much fun. They are interested and absorbed in their play. Children participate in an exciting range of activities that provide stimulation and contribute to their development. This is achieved because the staff have a clear understanding of childcare. Staff continue to develop their knowledge as they access ongoing relevant training. Children are valued and appreciated by the staff. They have a very good relationship built on respect for each other. Children are involved in decision making about the choice of activities and resources. They are involved in the choice of new resources, for example, they look through catalogues with staff. Time is made available to listen to children about their developing friendships with their peers and about the school day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children often initiate conversations as they seek more information about the wider community. Staff readily extend these conversations to promote their understanding of equal opportunities. However, there are limited positive images displayed around the setting and staff are not proactive in providing opportunities for children to explore issues of diversity through play.

There are adequate policies and procedures in place to support the care of children with special or additional needs. Staff have good experience and access ongoing relevant training. They liaise with parents and other professionals to identify the needs of individual children and develop appropriate strategies to meet those needs.

Children are well behaved. There is a lovely relaxed atmosphere to the group. This has been achieved because the emphasis is on the setting having good regard for children's leisure time. Children and staff are respectful to one another. The children have been involved in the development of the setting's rules and usually adhere to them without too many reminders.

There is a friendly relationship between staff and parents. Staff are friendly and approachable. There is a verbal exchange of information at the end of a session and staff are vigilant about passing on information from the school if necessary.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation of the hall creates a child-friendly environment. However, there is nothing on display that identifies this as an out-of-school club for the children rather than still being the school hall. There is only a small notice board displaying the

registration certificate and the public liability insurance.

There is an effective recruitment procedure which ensures staff are appropriately vetted and qualified. The management has a strong commitment to training and some staff are presently on childcare courses. The procedure for staff appraisal is in place but is not used at present. All of the required documentation is available and supports the effective running of this group.

The needs of all children who attend are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable as first inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- improve the opportunities for children to explore issues of diversity through play
- develop the organisation of the room to create an area that parents and children can clearly identify as the out-of-school club.

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