Chucklebox at Bensons Primary School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number  EY319725
Inspection date  22 June 2006
Inspector  Elizabeth Ellen Mackey

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Type of inspection  Childcare
Type of care  Out of School care

This inspection was carried out under the provisions of Part XA of the Children Act 1989, as inserted by the Care Standards Act 2000
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?

Chucklebox after school club opened in 2005 and is one of several privately owned, out of school clubs. It operates from within Bensons Primary school, in a residential area of Shirley. A collection service is offered from within Bensons School and from several other local schools.

There are currently 16 children from three to under eight years on roll. Chucklebox cares for children up to 11 years old. The setting is able to support children with special needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

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The after school club opens five days a week. They offer a breakfast club, after school club and a holiday play scheme. Sessions are from 07.45-09.00 and 15.00-18.00 during the term time and from 08:00-18:00 during the holidays. Four staff work with the children and all staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3.

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

**Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children learn about the importance of good personal hygiene routines, because they practice them regularly. For example, they wash their hands before eating meals and after using the toilet and are reminded by staff to do so, if they forget. Children benefit from healthy snacks and make choices from a range of healthy sandwiches and fruit. A recent activity involved children making pictures using fruit and vegetables, this encouraged them to make decisions about foods that are healthy for them. Children are provided with plenty of drinks and staff encourage the children to drink frequently. Staff motivate the children well and encourage them to take part in an excellent range of outdoor activities, including team sports. This develops their physical skills, promotes teamwork and helps them to learn about the importance of physical play in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. They have access to the school hall for sport and ball games and a spacious, well equipped outdoor area.

**Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure environment. Effective security precautions are in place, for example, an effective password system is in operation to ensure only authorised people can collect children. Staff are well deployed to ensure good supervision at all times. Risk assessments and fire drills are conducted regularly.

Children use a wide range of good quality, developmentally appropriate resources, which are well organised to encourage independent access. Staff explain safe practices and reinforce them through agreeing group rules for everyone. Children are involved in the rules agreed, this helps children learn to take responsibility for keeping themselves and their environment safe.

All staff have received training in child protection and health and safety awareness, this ensures that procedures are up-to-date and that staff understand their responsibilities.

**Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic to attend and relish their time in the setting. They enjoy

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taking part in an extensive range of well planned, free play activities both inside and outdoor. Activities are organised to give a mix of energetic, creative and quiet play. Detailed plans ensure children enjoy all activities and they offer appropriate challenge. They take into account children’s ability and interest. The manager and staff implement them with a high level of enthusiasm, which engages the children.

Children become engrossed in the themed activities that stimulate, challenge and interest them. The main themed activity develops initially from the children’s interest and children are involved from the planning stage to the end of the project. Children are supported in their play, encouraged to make choices and develop their ideas. Staff consistently acknowledge children in their achievements. A very good range of resources are available and the excellent use of natural materials gives the children lots of different textures to experience and extends their creative ability and imagination.

Children have opportunities to relax and read a selection of good quality books and have the choice of how they spend their time in the setting. They share responsibility for decisions regarding group activities and staff encourage them to express what they would like to do, this helps them to share and compromise.

Children relate very well to each other. They value and listen to each other and staff encourage them to respect one another, which helps to build positive relationships. Children enjoy good relationships with staff and are eager to talk to them on arrival. Staff take time to speak to all the children about their day in school, ensuring every child is included. This focuses the children and gives them a sense of belonging. Children are confident, happy and settled.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave responsibly and work very well together. They know what is expected of them because they are included in making the club behaviour rules. The children are acknowledged and their input is valued because of the skilful planning of activities, which includes their ideas and choices.

Children enjoy harmonious relationships with the staff and with their peers. They help one another and demonstrate good teamwork skills. Children develop self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions, take responsibility and make decisions.

Partnership with parents is good. They are welcome in the setting and have information about the clubs activities. Staff update parents on arrival and parents express they are happy with the care given to their children. The club offers an inclusive service and children's needs are identified to ensure all children are able to participate fully. Children's individual needs are well met and their likes and dislikes are respected. This contributes to their sense of belonging to the group.

Organisation

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The organisation is good.

The club is very well organised with effective routines in place. The experience and knowledge of the manager and staff ensure that the activities provided are stimulating and sustain children's interest, promoting their health, enjoyment and achievement.

The environment is welcoming to parents and children. It is clean, well maintained and suitable for its purpose, ensuring that children's physical care needs and developmental needs are well met.

There are effective recruitment procedures in place, which ensure that staff are appropriately vetted and qualified. The induction programme implemented by the manager ensures staff work well together to promote children's health, enjoyment and achievement. All records, policies and procedures, which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision are in place. Two of the setting's policies do not have adequate information and a recommendation is made for these policies to be reviewed.

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

**Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

**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):

- extend the policies to include; procedures for dealing with incidents of bullying; and information of how children with special needs are supported in
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