



## St Barnabas

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY311977
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 July 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Jan Leo
<b>Setting Address</b>	St. Barnabas C of E First School, Hart Street, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 6BN
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<b>Registered person</b>	Oxford Active Ltd
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 Barnabas out of school care registered in 2005 to care for up to 32 children under the age of eight years. The setting is privately operated and is one of eight clubs forming the Oxford Active group. It is based in St Barnabas Church of England First School, Oxford which is within walking distance of the city centre. The children use the library, music room, playground and field. The outdoor areas are open to the public when school closes. Only children under the age of eight years who attend the school use the out of school provision and there are currently 35 children on roll.

The provision operates from 15.00 to 17.30 Monday to Friday, term time only. Three

staff work with the children and all have a recognised qualification to level 2 or above. It is a multicultural group with a large number of children who are bi-lingual.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children follow effective health and hygiene practices in order to stay healthy. They learn to wash their hands on arrival and many remind friends to do so to remove germs before they eat. Staff normally provide soap and paper towels but they do not keep stocks replenished to make sure they are always available. Children eat nutritious snacks to boost their energy before starting play, and they choose from a wide selection of foods such as brown bread or crackers, cooked meat, cheese, fruit and a selection of spreads. Children can have seconds if they are still hungry and they independently help themselves to drinks before washing up their own crockery. Some make a very good attempt at removing grease and germs by filling the sink with warm water and washing up liquid, but staff do not supervise the activity. As a result, some children are not clear about what to do and why. Once children have eaten, they routinely apply sun protection and gather equipment to take outdoors. Volunteers show off their strength by carrying boxes laden with a range of toys and games, stopping at intervals to relax before continuing onto the field. Staff position equipment carefully, in the shade, to avoid excessive heat, and children proceed to entertain themselves by climbing and balancing on the adventure playground, running about with friends and generally enjoying the fresh air. All move well, displaying good co-ordination, and they have appropriate physical challenges to increase their stamina.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children understand the club rules and usually comply with them in order to stay safe. For example, they know where they can play and generally stay within the designated area. Each child wears a red bib when outside because the school grounds are open to the public when school closes. This helps staff identify which children form their group, but supervision is extremely difficult due to the number of people on site. The staff diligently secure the far end of the site by locking gates, and they move around constantly, playing with each group of children as they supervise play. The site is vast and staff frequently have their back to some children resulting in small groups being out of sight for lengthy periods. Staff escort children around the building and regularly complete a head count. They take their responsibility seriously and strive to keep children safe without hampering play and diminishing children's enjoyment. However, staff rely heavily on trust, which is not an effective means of keeping all children safe. Children play with an appropriate range of resources and have ample space for their games. Staff check equipment regularly to keep it in sound condition and they remove any item that could cause injury. Staff display the fire drill clearly but children do not regularly practice evacuating the building to ensure

all know how to leave the club area safely in an emergency. Staff have a sound understanding of the child protection procedure and hold contact numbers with their policy to enable a prompt referral if they have concerns about a child.

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

The provision is good.

Children play very well together regardless of the diversity of the setting. They move around freely to play with different groups of friends who accept them wherever they go. Some children find a quiet place to chat while others play football, hide and seek, or other games in small groups. Children choose whom to play with and games frequently include children who are not at the club. This provides children with opportunities to develop their social life within a controlled environment. All children occupy themselves well and enthusiastically share ideas with others, giggling as they play. Those wanting a quiet time after school play alone for extended periods, completely uninhibited. For example, they engross themselves in a game with cars, holding both sides of the conversation with imaginary drivers. The staff show interest in everything the children do, and they join in play to extend learning and develop ideas. The children welcome involvement by staff and form relaxed and friendly relationships with adults to develop a pleasant and happy environment.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

All children feel part of the group because staff treat them as individuals and show interest in everything they do. Staff enable club members to make friends with a wide variety of children, some of whom do not attend the club, and they provide all with valuable play opportunities and the support they need to join in fully. Only members of the school attend the club and they have a thorough understand how to behave. They follow an effective code of conduct to create harmony and, as a result, the children are polite, helpful and friendly. Staff act as good role models and keep to well-organised routines to help children know what comes next and feel secure within the setting. Children take pride in helping with routine tasks such as carrying equipment to the field and washing up their own plates, and they are becoming increasingly independent. Staff form strong relationships with parents and carers and ensure clear information is available about how the group operates. Staff do not display the helpline poster to enable families to contact Ofsted easily. Staff make themselves available to talk to parents when they collect their children, to keep them informed about the day, and help them feel welcome. Families value the facility because of its nurturing aspect, and feel that staff do a very good job in providing a 'half way house' between school and home.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children

follow a basic routine to ensure they settle and they have access to a range of activities with a good degree of challenge. The staff work well together to support children and help them develop, and they endeavour to preserve children's wellbeing without restricting play and inhibiting enjoyment. This results in supervision being difficult and inconsistent in the outdoor play area. All staff have appropriate qualifications and experience to work with children and they build strong relationships to ensure everyone enjoys their day. Most of the documentation, required by regulation, is in place and readily available. There is no complaints log on site in case any concerns are raised, and the attendance record does not include sufficient detail.

### **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 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 satisfactory. 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 safety by involving children in regular fire practices and ensuring all children are under constant supervision when playing outside
- introduce a complaints log and keep the complaints procedure on site, ensuring that all staff understand and can implement the procedure if a concern is raised
- improve documentation by ensuring that the daily record of attendance accurately reflects when children and adults are present, and displaying the parents poster containing Ofsted contact details.

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