



The Fun Zone Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 511184

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Inspector Claudia Padfield

Setting Address Mrs Blands Infants School, Jordans Lane, Burghfield Common,
Reading, Berkshire, RG7 3LP

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Registered person The Fun Zone Out of 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?

The Fun Zone opened in 1997. It is situated at Mrs Bland's School in Burghfield Common. The club has its own room attached to the school and has use of the school playing fields and playground. All children attending must be in full time education. During the term time the club operates before school, 8:00 to 8:45 and after school between 15:00 and 18:00 for children who attend Mrs Bland's Infant school and the nearby Garlands Junior School. In the holidays, the club opens from 8.00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday only, not including Bank Holidays. The holiday club is open to any child in the community with children coming from nearby villages such as Mortimer and Burghfield, as well as Burghfield Common itself. Children with

special needs are welcomed in the club. The group has over 150 children on roll.

The club is run by a parent committee with the head teacher as chairperson. It is staffed by club manager, play leader and six assistants. The manager, who holds an NVQ level III qualification works both during the term and holidays. Other staff work either in the holidays or term time, depending on availability and commitments. The club receives support from the West Berkshire EYDCP development workers.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are developing independent skills within their personal care routines, they understand the importance of good hygiene reminding each other about washing hands before snack time and after visiting the bathroom. Children are well protected from infection due to good systems in place, staff have up to date first aid training and understand the documentation required to support any treatment given. The children enjoy comfort and support from the staff and talk about events during their day as staff treated bumps and bruises.

Children have excellent opportunities to access fresh air and enjoy the open space. They have extensive equipment which provides a range of challenges for each age group. The children and staff are growing a thriving vegetable patch and enthusiastically watered the plants and each other. This is expanding the children's knowledge about fresh fruit and vegetables and encourages them to try new tastes.

The snack time has been reviewed and updated to consider healthy eating, children taste and range of foods and talk about the food value. They now have yogurts, fruit, cheese and crackers and sandwiches. Once a week the children are able to chose a favourite tea. Children lack opportunities to gain independence during snack for example serving the drinks, washing up or choosing when they wish to eat or leave the table.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children have their own classroom which is attractively decorated with children's work and information regarding the out of school club. The room is well organised to enable the children good opportunities to self select activities of choice. Staff supervise the children well overseeing the range of activities on offer. Children enjoy the balance of freedom and the setting of safe limits. Staff value the children spending time explaining, for example staff discuss why a cricket ball is not suitable for use in the play ground when other children close by are playing with a range of different activities such as roller blades and skate boards. These children wear safety helmets to protect their heads against injury. Risk assessments are completed but some require updating.

The group has an extensive range of equipment covering all areas of development and interests for the children. They select and take turns happily following expectations from staff on how to use them safely. For example when a child stands on a chair to play with the big box of Lego the staff member discusses moving the box lower so selecting the bricks of choice is easier, which they happily do. Children understand the fire drill procedures which are documented and dates are displayed once completed to ensure parents are aware of activities the children do.

Staff safeguard and promote the children's welfare. They revisit and update training when required. This ensures they have a thorough understanding of signs and symptoms of abuse and know what action to take should a concern arise. Staff have current first aid qualifications which enable them to act in the children's best interest if required.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are secure, confident and thoroughly enjoy the time they spend at the club. They settle quickly to a wide range of activities and resources. Children relate well to one another and show consideration to the staff team, who consistently act as a good role model for the children, praise them regularly, listen to what the children are saying and truly value their contributions. Children approach staff freely and the interaction is effective.

They spend long periods of time engaged in imaginary games in the garden co-operating with peers, enjoying the freedom and space to be creative. Children benefit from the extensive range of resources and toys, which enables them to express their imagination for example pretend shopping. They enjoy each others company talking and laughing during play. Staff skilfully observe and provide them with additional props and ideas to extend their games.

Staff have a secure knowledge of child development which enhances the activities they provide giving children many opportunities to develop new skills. The staff team enable the children to become active members in the group. They plan future activities and make choices about how things are done. This is being developed by a children committee that meets on a regular basis, taking notes and planning where they would like to see change.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued by the staff team, who know each child really well and treat them with respect and interest. Good systems are in place to support all children within the group. Staff adapt and vary the activities to give all children an opportunity to participate.

Children's behaviour is very good in response to the staff's positive and consistent

approach to behaviour management. They work harmoniously together with their peers and cooperate effectively. Children are learning to successfully resolve issues themselves and learn to take responsibility for their actions. For example they consider the younger children within the group and make concessions for their different level of understanding. This effective approach means that the children have a good understanding of agreed codes for behaviour and results in then showing greater care for others and the environment.

The partnership with parents is good. The successful partnership contributes to the children's ease and enjoyment at the club. Good levels of information are displayed for parents to read and the group have made policies and procedures easily accessible, placed next to the register where they sign in and out. Parents support the club by donating a varied and interesting range of toys and resources, which are attractively organised. Staff spend time at the end of the day verbally updating parents to the activities and games the children have played.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are settled and confidently make their needs and wishes known. They enjoy the well organised play space with regular access to the outside area. Staff understand the policies and procedures required through regulation and update their knowledge as required through short courses and the reviewing of policies. These support the care of the children and ensure the required documentation is in place and up to date.

Recruitment and vetting procedures ensure the children are well cared for by staff with good knowledge and understanding of the children in their care. Induction procedures are thorough and ensure the staff have a good awareness of expected practice. Staff appraisals and monitoring are used to effectively ascertain suitability and training requirements. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group were required to review various policies and procedures, they now have a lost child policy to ensure children are protected and the staff team know what to do should the situation arise. The child protection policy required details about procedures to be followed should an allegation be made against a member of staff. Staff have had further training and the policy now reflects this information to ensure children are protected. Documentation regarding medication required the parents signature. This has been implemented and ensures the parents are aware of times and administration of medication. Policies are now available for parents to read by the register, which requires parents to sign their children out upon departure. They all complete this task which ensures an up to date record is available of who is present at any one time.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- review the systems to ensure risk assessment are carried out and documented
- enhance snack time so all children enjoy the experience and promote greater independence

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