



Beenham Wolves Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	511597
Inspection date	14 July 2006
Inspector	Sheena Bankier

Setting Address	Beenham Wolves Club, The Community Room, Beenham Primary School, Beenham, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 5NN
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Registered person	Beenham Wolves 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?

Beenham Wolves Club is run by a voluntary committee made up of parents and school staff. It opened in 1995 and operates from Beenham Primary School. The club has use of the community room and the school grounds and amenities. A maximum of 24 children may attend at any one time. The club is open to children aged from four to 11 years.

The after school club runs from 15.05 to 17.45 each week day during term times. The club also opens for part of the summer holidays. There are currently 99 children on roll aged from four to 11 years of age. Children come from the local community and

the surrounding area. Children who attend other schools in the area are welcome, although staff are unable to collect children after school except those at Beenham Primary School.

The after school club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties.

The club employs three permanent members of staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications. Volunteers sometimes work at the club during the summer holidays.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children use clean premises which are well maintained. The staff are well aware of maintaining good standards of hygiene, for example, they clean the tables before children sit down to eat and wear aprons when preparing food.

Children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle is developed through physical activities. During the school holidays the club has themed fitness days when children bring their bikes or scooters with them. Children have use of a small outdoor area attached to the main base room where they can play with balls and have access to a large playing field. Indoors, children can use the hall for games and activities, such as dancing.

Children sit together at tables for snacks and drinks, sometimes with staff. This develops their social skills as they sit and talk in small groups. Children can ask for drinks at any time between the two main snack times. Staff also monitor the time children spend outdoors and make children aware that they can have more to drink. Children's individual dietary needs are well understood and accommodated. Parents provide a packed lunch in the holidays and are advised by the club about suitable foods to provide, for example, no sweets. Parents are also advised to put an ice pack into their child's lunch box to keep the food fresh and the club also has access to a fridge where they can store some items if needed. The food provided by the club does not promote healthy eating. Children are offered white bread sandwiches, with crisps, cakes and biscuits for their snack times. The committee and staff have reviewed and evaluated the food offered and plan to offer healthy and nutritious snacks from next term.

Staff are aware of children's individual health needs and ensure they have the necessary information to respond to these. The staff understand the need to make records of accidents and parents are given a photocopy of these, which keeps them well informed. All the permanent staff hold current first aid certificates. This helps to protect children's well-being as prompt care and attention can be given to children. The consent from parents to seek emergency advice or treatment for children is not sufficiently clear. This could delay or prevent essential medical treatment being given to children in an emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is managed effectively. There are detailed written risk assessments for all areas the club uses and for the individual outings that take place in the holidays. Parents are requested to provide car booster seats for the travel in mini-buses. This minimises the risks and potential hazards to children. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they practise the emergency evacuation and become confident in the procedure and they understand the boundaries and rules, for example, they ask to leave the main base room to visit the toilet.

Children use equipment and toys that are in good condition and are able to make choices from the resources and activities set out. Equipment and toys are regularly checked to ensure they remain in good condition. The environment is welcoming and inviting to children and parents. Information is displayed about the activities and planned outings for each day for the after school and holiday club. Children's art work and photos of the children during activities and outings are displayed. This gives children a sense of belonging.

Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of how to protect children in their care. All permanent staff have undertaken child protection training and they are well aware of the procedures to follow. This safeguards children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from the wide range of activities, outings and play opportunities. The well-planned experiences take into account the children's interests as they contribute ideas through a suggestion box. There is a lot of variety in the type of activities children undertake, for example, visitors to the group undertake specialist activities with the children, such as circus skills and children designing their own pictures to be printed onto T-shirts.

Children are very happy and settled at the club. They are confident in the established routines which they know well. There are very good relationships between the children and with the staff. Staff support children as individuals at the activities. Children seek out staff to talk to and feel relaxed in their company. Children enjoy spending time with each other and have fun together as they sit and take part in art activities or play outside with a ball. Children respond enthusiastically to the activities on offer, such as decorating candle holders and carefully create and design the holders and take pride in their achievements.

Children are well occupied at the club and have extremely good opportunities to take part in a wide variety of creative activities, for example they make plaster of Paris models, bead and shell necklaces and design badges. Children take part in fun activities as a group, such as having bingo games and hold a pop stars dance competition. During the holidays children go on a wide range of outings, for example to the Bracknell Lookout Centre, bowling and visit a wildlife park. These outings are

fun and also help children to widen their experiences, knowledge and understanding.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have a good sense of belonging to the club. Agreed codes for acceptable behaviour are discussed with children and a set of positive expectations is displayed. Children's behaviour is good and they understand the boundaries and rules in place. Children develop responsibility by helping to tidy up and act as tea time helpers, preparing the food alongside a member of staff. Staff are good role models to children as they speak politely to each other and the children. Children respond by treating adults and each other with respect and politeness. Children are regularly praised and given encouragement. This supports and develops children's self-esteem and confidence.

Children feel valued in the group and staff respond well to their requests and needs. Children with learning difficulties are fully integrated into the club and participate well in the activities on offer. Children are given good support by staff. Staff work in close partnership with parents and other agencies to keep up-to-date with children's needs.

Children learn about others through a variety of topics relating to festival and religious dates, such as Chinese New Year. The children celebrated this by eating stir fry food and made dragons. Children have access to resources that reflect positive images of society, such as books, dolls and puppets and take part in art and craft activities which reflect religious and festival celebrations. This allows children to increase their awareness of diversity and their understanding of others.

There are good relationships established with parents. Information in term time is sent out within the schools newsletter regarding activities and information to keep them up-to-date. Parents can take an active part in the club as they can join the committee. The club lacks knowledge of the October 2005 regulation to maintain a record of complaints which is to be available to parents on request. This is now a requirement for all childcare providers. The after school club expressed an intention to put a complaints log in place when informed of the new requirement. Ofsted have not received any complaints about the setting. Therefore, the impact is deemed minimal.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Staff work well together as a team and good relationships are evident. Staff are well motivated and have attended some further training. This helps staff to review and develop their practice and understanding. They use their time and resources effectively and are well deployed within the room. Staff interact with the children very well. They understand and meet the individual needs of the children effectively.

Children enjoy space to play as they have access to a main room, hall and different outdoor areas.

The paperwork, overall, supports the children's health, safety and welfare of the children. A parental consent to seek emergency advice or treatment for children is not sufficiently clear. A procedure to maintain records of complaints which are to be made available to parents on request is not in place.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the out of school club was given one recommendation to add bullying to the behaviour policy. Information about bullying has been added to the behaviour policy with information about how to prevent bullying and how to manage incidents. This helps ensure children are protected from unacceptable behaviour and staff have clear procedures to follow in order to address any situations that arise.

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):

- ensure the consent from parents to seek emergency treatment and advice for children is clear
- update knowledge and understanding of the regulation which requires providers to keep a record of complaints made by parents.

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