



Earley Centrepont After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	148648
Inspection date	17 October 2006
Inspector	Lynne Elizabeth Lewington
Setting Address	Earley Centrepont Youth & Community Centre, Chalfont Close, Earley, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 5HZ
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Registered person	Earley Centrepont After 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?

Earley Centrepont After School Club has been registered since 1995 and is situated in the Earley Centrepont community hall. The club accepts children from the local community who attend Whiteknights, Radstock and Hillside Schools; the schools are situated in the Lower Earley area. The club is managed by a voluntary committee of parents.

The club may care for no more than 32 children from five years to under eight years at any one time, children up to the age of 11 years old may attend the club. There are currently 46 children on roll. The club is open Monday to Friday 15.30 to 18.00 term time only. The club has access to a large hall, smaller room, kitchen and the enclosed sports hall of the adjacent leisure centre.

The club employs five members of staff to work with the children, they have relevant training and experience, the supervisor holds an National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 3 in Play work. The Club is a member of Kids Club Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean attractive environment. They are gaining a good understanding of hygiene routines as they routinely clean their hands after toileting, and before tea. Children also assist in ensuring the tables are cleaned thoroughly before they are used for meal time. Clearly maintained accident and medication records promote the children's welfare and safety. Three members of staff hold first aid qualifications ensuring that any accidents can be appropriately managed.

Children benefit from a varied seasonal menu including jacket potatoes, fish, meat and cheese cooked dishes. Good care is taken to ensure the children's likes and dislikes are known enabling the staff to make sure the children have a substantial meal each evening. They have a choice of squash or water to drink which helps to prevent dehydration. The provision of healthy meals and regular drinks encourages the children's awareness of healthy eating.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activity on a daily basis. Each day they walk from school to the after school club under the close supervision of a staff member. They actively participate in games with balls, hoops, and skipping ropes in the large spacious sports hall, enabling them to develop their balance and co-ordination. Quiet activities provide opportunities to rest and sit calmly, whilst they undertake games and activities which promote their hand and eye co-ordination and finer movements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The environment is very well maintained, and welcoming with access to natural light, and ventilation. Risks to children are minimised as sensible measures are taken to manage any potential hazards. Resources are checked and cleaned appropriately to ensure they remain safe and suitable for their purpose. Regular risk assessments and careful preparation of the play area also promote the children's safety. Children are encouraged to use the equipment and furniture appropriately in order to promote their safety and the safety of others. Sound arrival and departure routines ensure children's supervision and safety at all times. For example, they wear fluorescent tabards on their journey from school to ensure they are clearly visible. Children help to devise the sensible rules for the setting and the walk from school enabling them to develop a good awareness and understanding of keeping safe. Children learn about fire safety as they regularly undertake fire evacuation practices, where they learn the importance of following instruction and moving calmly out of the building.

The lengthy child protection policies and procedures safeguard and promote children's welfare; however they do not clearly reflect the current safeguarding children practice. Staff have an awareness of the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and the action they would take if concerned. Staff promote children's privacy at all times, for example the washrooms are adult free zones.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's needs and welfare is promoted effectively, they have opportunities to relax and make choices, chat with friends, undertake physical activity and receive suitable nourishment. Children participate in a suitable range of fun play activities that promote their enjoyment and development. They undertake play and art and craft activities which help to promote their creative abilities. For example, children create attractive pictures using bubble printing. A wide range of toys, games and equipment including construction toys ensure the children are fully occupied whilst at the setting. Children self select the activity they wish to undertake from a variety set out in the room. They confidently ask for items and the staff respond positively to their requests. Children enjoy the relaxed informal atmosphere, where they frequently offer and are encouraged to help staff with the practical tasks such as clearing away which help the club remain a pleasant environment.

Children assist in planning the sessions with staff ensuring they have opportunities to undertake activities which interest them. Registration time provides a group time where ideas and news are shared. Staff actively seek new ideas and experiences to motivate and develop the children's enjoyment and activity. Children develop their physical skills and use their energy as they undertake ball games, and team games in the sports hall. Therefore, the children are very happy and interested in the activities on offer enjoying the social opportunity the club provides.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individuality is respected. Their individual needs are met through the gathering of appropriate information to ensure the child's needs are fully understood and catered for at each session. A simple clear special needs policy indicates an understanding of the importance of being able to meet the child's individual needs. Children develop their awareness of equality through fairness and opportunities to undertake all activities. They are encouraged to show interest, care and concern for others, and to respect and tolerate differences of opinion. Activities are successfully adapted to ensure that all children can participate at a level suitable to their development.

There is good quality, positive interaction between staff and children. The staff act as positive role models as they listen to the children, use good manners to each other and the children and show concern and interest in those around them. Children help to devise the simple rules for the club. This helps the children understand their importance and increases their awareness of the relevance of rules in promoting a civilised environment. The staff have high expectations of the children's behaviour and follow consistent rules and routines which help the children to feel safe and secure whilst at the club. Behaviour is good.

Parents receive information about policies and a regular newsletter. A clear and attractive parent's notice board is easily visible at the entrance to the setting; this provides parents with information about the food offered, activities and other important relevant information. There is good interaction between the staff and parents, they are greeted warmly and time is taken to share information and discuss sensitive or confidential issues privately.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The organisation of the club ensures that staff know their roles and responsibilities within the setting. An effective range of policies and procedures are in place which helps to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. All the required documentation is in place and maintained appropriately to meet the requirements of registration.

Excellent use is made of the available space and resources to provide the children with a pleasant and attractive environment for the wide range of interesting and age appropriate activities which take place. The leader holds suitable qualifications and is proactive in seeking appropriate courses to extend staff knowledge and interest for the benefit of the children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was recommended to improve statements and policies for parents regarding special needs, how to make a complaint and the procedure for a lost child. These have all been improved. An up to date clear policy statement is available regarding special needs, if a child is lost and the complaints procedure. These all ensure that staff and users of the service have a clear understanding of the procedures.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted relating to National Standard 11: (Behaviour) and National Standard 12 (Working in partnership with parents and carers). Concerns were raised after an incident between two children. Ofsted required the provider to investigate. The provider responded with details of the incident, the action taken and a copy of their behaviour management policy and how this was implemented. In light of this incident the provider confirmed a review of the group's behaviour policy would take place to ensure all parents were fully aware of the policy. Ofsted was satisfied that by taking this action the provider remained qualified for registration at the time investigations were closed.

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 and update the policies and procedures in relation to child protection.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk