



BASS (Bury Autistic Summer School)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY310391
Inspection date	09 August 2006
Inspector	Teresa Ann Clark
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Registered person	B.A.S.S Bury Autistic Summer School
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care, Full day 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?

Bass (Bury Autistic Summer School) has been registered since 2005. The scheme provides holiday care during the summer holiday periods for children with autism.

The scheme operates from Elms Bank High School in the Whitefield area of Manchester. The scheme has the use of three classrooms, each with adjacent outdoor play areas. Children also have access to the life skills room, chill out room, medium hall and extensive outdoor area.

The provision may care for a maximum of 24 children at any one time. There are

currently 22 children on roll. The scheme is run by an active committee and managed by two experienced play leaders. They are assisted by 14 staff, all experienced in working with children with

autism.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in premises which are maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. Risk of infection and illness to children is minimized as clear and effective policies and procedures are in place. For example, staff follow consistent hygiene practices to maintain children's good health. They make sure all areas are kept clean and that the bathrooms and changing areas are adequately stocked. Arrangements for ensuring safety and dignity of children when attending to their personal needs are very good and are carried out discreetly and efficiently. However, children are not developing an understanding about simple hygiene practices, such as washing their hands before they eat. There are clear procedures in place for recording accidents and medication, which promote children's good health. There are sufficient staff with first aid training to ensure children receive appropriate care and attention in the event of an accident.

Children's specific dietary needs are very well catered for. Staff obtain detailed information from parents regarding cultural preferences and any food allergies. Effective procedures are in place to ensure that all staff are fully aware of individual requirements and children's needs are met. Children enjoy their morning snack and are given choices about what they would like to eat.

Regular drinks including juice and water are offered to the children, which ensures they keep refreshed and hydrated.

Children enjoy physical activity which contributes to a healthy lifestyle. They test and practise their skills using the bouncy castle and swing ball. Other activities include horse riding, swimming and visiting the local park where they use equipment to promote their strength and coordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

A clean, bright and well-maintained environment helps children to feel secure. The health and safety of children is given high priority. All staff are very conscious of ensuring the well-being of children and actively involve children in suitable activities. There are very good procedures in place to keep children safe, which include the high staffing ratios. These are mostly one-to-one which ensures children are well supervised and staff position themselves so children are always in their sight. The premises are secure to prevent children leaving the building and unwanted visitors

gaining access. Risk assessments are regularly undertaken for trips and outings. Emergency evacuation procedures are practised with the children to ensure they are kept safe.

Children access good quality toys and equipment which are safe and suitable. Regular checks ensure that they do not pose a risk to children's safety. With adult support children make decisions about how they want to spend their time. Resources are set out and accessible to promote children's independence. The layout of furniture and equipment allows children to move about freely without the worry of injuring themselves.

Children's welfare is well protected. Clear child protection procedures are in place and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities. A designated person takes responsibility for liaising with child protection agencies.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are eager and excited when they arrive at the provision. They are met by their key worker who provides constant support throughout the sessions. As a result, children soon settle and engage in activities. Staff take good care of the children, who in turn trust staff and know who to approach if they need help. This provides excellent support for them when they are upset or troubled. Children benefit from a wide range of activities and experiences which they thoroughly enjoy. A happy and caring environment is provided where children feel safe and secure. Staff are highly skilled at catering for the varied needs of the children, this is because they have a good knowledge of the children and how to respond to them. They provide a flexible programme of activities which meets the needs of the children. These include activities on site, outings and trips. Children are excited as they prepare to go swimming and others look forward to playing on the bouncy castle. Opportunities for children to make their own choices and opt in and out of activities are freely available. They are given time and space, which allows them to take part in activities when they feel comfortable and at their own pace.

A child has made some finger puppets, which he uses to act out a puppet show. The story is based around the broken CD player, which he wants to take home for his Granddad to fix. Children are given excellent support to enable them to enjoy and achieve. For example, a child playing with the swing ball and children making collage pictures of a clown. Staff are extremely sensitive and are quick to respond to children when they become unsettled or upset. For example, children are treated to a foot or hand massage which soon calms them down. Another child responds to a familiar nursery rhyme which she finds soothing. The use of the light room as a soothing sanctuary promotes and protects children's emotional well-being. Children receive high levels of support from staff who are warm and affectionate. They give children lots of eye contact and reassurance by smiling and through physical contact, such as gentle stroking and holding hands. Staff act in the children's best interests and are clearly guided by the needs and abilities of the children. As a result, children feel secure, enjoy themselves and have fun.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are warmly welcomed and their individual needs successfully met. Staff gather detailed information about children before they start at the scheme. A completed profile provides a clear picture about children's needs, such as anxieties, comforters, medical conditions and calming strategies. Staff create a positive environment in which all children are equally valued. They are provided with the necessary support to enable them to fully participate in all the activities and experiences. Children are helped to play in small groups according to ability levels. They are encouraged to be independent as much as possible by giving them time and encouragement. Staff use a time line, which includes the use of picture cards to show the sequence of events throughout the session. This helps to reduce anxieties for children because they are prepared for what's happening next.

Staff relationships with the children are extremely good and these, together with consistent approaches to behaviour management help the children manage minor conflicts and squabbles. Any issues are dealt with in a calm, patient and understanding manner. Staff speak kindly to children but are firm and consistent, which means children develop an understanding about what is acceptable behaviour. Children are continually applauded for their efforts and achievements, which helps promote their self-esteem and confidence.

Children benefit from the good relationships between staff and parents. The policies and procedures inform parents about the provision. A daily diary provides a two way dialogue between staff and parents. This ensures that children's needs are met and they receive continuity of care. The diary also includes photographs of the children taking part in activities. Parents are valued as partners and their views are sought and acted upon. Parents are delighted with the provision. Their comments include 'Excellent attitude and understanding of staff' 'Children happy, excited and well looked after'.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a caring and nurturing environment. Space and resources are organised so children can freely express themselves. As a result, children are comfortable and secure within the environment. Children benefit from an enthusiastic and dedicated staff team, who work well together to provide positive outcomes for children. They are clear about their roles and responsibilities, which enables them to work effectively to meet children's needs.

The high ratio of staffing provides children with individual support and attention, which means their needs are successfully met. Staff who work in the provision are highly skilled in caring for the children, giving them suitable guidance and responding sensitively to any concerns and needs. Staff meet together before the scheme starts to discuss the planning and the needs of the children. This ensures activities are appropriate and children have fun. There are clear and effective policies and

procedures, which are understood and followed by staff. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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):

- improve hygiene routines by encouraging children to wash their hands before eating.

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