



The Otter Club (Kidzone)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY298311
Inspection date	25 September 2006
Inspector	Joanne Susan Boon
Setting Address	Carter Knowle Junior School, Carter Knowle Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S7 2DY
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Registered person	The Otter 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Otter Club has been registered since 2005 and is owned and run by a voluntary management committee. It operates in a basement room on school premises, located in a suburb of Sheffield. Out of school care is provided for children up to 11 years. Times of opening are from 15.30 to 17.45 during school term times.

The club is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children at any one time. Currently there are 14 children under eight years on roll. The club supports children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

There are six staff who work with the children. Half the staff hold recognised qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have opportunities to enjoy active physical play in the grounds of the school everyday, which helps to keep them healthy. They have use of varied and good quality outdoor equipment. Staff support children very well to develop and extend their physical skills. The indoor play area provides children with space for physical activities as well as opportunities for rest and relaxation.

Staff have a good understanding of health guidelines and implement appropriate hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infections. For example, suitable anti-bacterial sprays are used to clean the tables before snacks are served. Staff have detailed information about the spread of infection held within clear policies. Parents are informed that children should not attend the club if they are unwell. Staff raise children's awareness of healthy practices by example, and by reminding them to wash their hands before they eat food. Accident and medication records are well maintained.

Snack time is a very social occasion where children sit together and chatter about the days events and lasts for as long as the children want. Children are offered an excellent range of interesting and healthy foods, for example, melon, freshly prepared pineapple, bananas and oranges, that reflect children's preferences and individual choices. Staff have a good knowledge of dietary needs and a commitment to offering nutritional snacks. They encourage children to think about which foods are good for them and aim to offer healthy choices, for example, one child commented "I love the clubs pineapple, it's always really juicy". Snack and a range of drinks are always available to children throughout the session. Parent's wishes are considered and welcomed so that children's individual health and dietary needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to access ample space to allow them to enjoy a variety of activities and use a range of appropriately maintained resources. They move around the environment freely and can visit the toilet independently. However, due to the lay out of the building, there are potential risks associated with this independence when visiting the toilets. Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised as staff conduct daily health and safety checks.

Consistent reinforcement of boundaries helps children to begin to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe. For example, children are aware that it is not safe to run up and down the stairs and remind each other of this during the session. Fire drills are held regularly to promote children's understanding of how they must behave to facilitate safe evacuation. Staff are deployed appropriately during the out of school club so that children are adequately supervised. All of the required safety policies are in place and appropriately maintained.

Staff have a sound knowledge of child protection issues and there is a detailed recording system in place. Children are able to share any concerns they have with staff and seek appropriate support.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy coming to the out of school club, for example, one child explains, "I really love it, I like the time to make things". They are able to get deeply involved in activities of their own choice, depending on their own individual needs and interests. The atmosphere is very relaxed and welcoming, and children interact warmly with staff as they talk about the day's events, and plan what activities they will do at the club.

Children choose from an excellent range of toys and equipment. Staff provide an interesting balance of activities influenced by the children's likes and requests, that develop both their physical and imaginative play. They actively encourage children to develop their own ideas and work together as a cohesive group. For example, a child spends the entire session designing a play environment for his own toys. He carefully selects materials, discusses the 'scale' in relation to the toys and takes time to complete the project. The child is supported very well by staff who understand his abilities and encourage his skills. Children are able to access stored resources, in order to support their play on most occasions.

Children are confident, independent and very happy in their surroundings. Relationships are very good and staff give children regular encouragement in their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children make positive relationships with one another and develop a true sense of belonging to the club. Children chat and play with their friends throughout the session. The children are considerate and kind to one another and enjoy group games and activities. For example, several children work cooperatively with the 'K-nex' construction set, developing combined design ideas. Several resources that actively promote difference and diversity are evident within the club environment.

Children are encouraged to make their own contribution to the daily running of the sessions, for example, they clear the table after snack and wash their own dishes. Recent involvement in a club questionnaire prompted positive responses from the children regarding their views of activities, snacks and the experiences they have while attending. Good behaviour is supported and reinforced by the children's involvement in the setting of their own boundaries and gentle reminders outlined in the 'Children's Handbook'. Staff are consistent in their management of children's behaviour.

Staff have positive relationships with parents. All parents spoken to commented on how much their children enjoy coming to the club. A recent parental questionnaire provides evidence of the clubs commitment to working in partnership with parents. The comprehensive 'Parents

Handbook' includes details regarding the club policies and procedures, Ofsted and the appropriate complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff ensure that the premises and play resources are organised to support children's care, learning and play. Children are actively encouraged to participate within the day to day running of the group and to care for their immediate environment. Parent's wishes regarding their child's care influence day-to-day practice.

Staff are suitably qualified and experienced to promote children's wellbeing. There is planned access to appropriate training and a commitment to continual improvement. Staff are deployed effectively, so that children's needs are supported well. Although the registered body is in breach of a regulation by not having staff records and details of suitability available for inspection, most of the required documentation is adequately established to safeguard children's welfare.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the group have reviewed and up dated their complaints procedure. This is now readily available to parents. The security of the premises has also been reviewed and many effective improvements have been made. However, there are still potential risks associated with unsupervised visits to the toilets. Staff details and records relating to their suitability are still not held on the premises and remain an area for improvement.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report 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 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):

- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times, with particular regard to staff records
- consider the risks to children in relation to unsupervised access to the toilets and take action to minimise these

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