



## Ashgate Activity Club

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** EY291186  
**Inspection date** 19 August 2005  
**Inspector** Karen Ann Byfleet

**Setting Address** Ashgate Croft School, Ashgate Road, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 4BN  
**Telephone number** 01246 275111 + 07984882714  
**E-mail**  
**Registered person** Ashgate Activity 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](http://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?

Ashgate Activity Club was registered in 2004. It operates from within Ashgate Croft school and provides after school and holiday care for children who attend the school and their siblings.

Most of the children attending have special educational needs and they attend a variety of sessions.

The group opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 15:30 until 18:00 Monday to Friday during term time and the holiday club is open from 09:00

until 16:30 through out the school holidays. There are currently 50 children on roll aged between 4 years and 16 years. During the inspection 7 children were present and of these 4 are under 8 years.

Three full time and staff work with the children. All have early years qualifications. The setting receive support from the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are becoming independent in their personal hygiene. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating, although this is not always consistent. Nappy changing procedures are followed by staff to ensure children's privacy is maintained and nappies are disposed of appropriately.

Children enjoy a good range of outdoor activities, encouraging them to develop control of their bodies and keep fit and healthy. They are able to run and climb using fixed equipment and they enjoy the swings which are specially designed for disabled children. Effective policies and procedures, which are followed by staff, support children's health needs. For example, the administration of medication and first aid training. However, the recording of accidents is inconsistent as not all parents are asked to sign acknowledgement of the entry.

Children enjoy snack and lunch time. Social skills are encouraged, children clearly enjoy the opportunity to discuss their experiences with each other. They are provided with regular drinks of fresh water throughout the day and the provision of healthy snacks such as, fresh fruit, raises children's awareness of healthy eating. However, packed lunches which are provided by parents are not stored appropriately. All children's individual dietary needs and requirements are recorded and discussed with parents to ensure consistency of care and that individual dietary requirements are met.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

The warm and welcoming environment helps children to feel secure and confident within their surroundings. They are happy and at ease and are able to move around safely, freely and independently in the organised environment. Children are kept safe as staff closely supervise activities. There is adequate room for children to rest in comfort. Equipment is kept clean, well maintained and suitable for the children for whom the setting provides. Staff attractively display children's art work around the room, giving children a sense of belonging and raising their self- esteem.

Premises are kept secure through staff's vigilance and the good supervision of the children whilst they play, both indoors and outdoors. Regular risk assessments of the toys, equipment and resources, carried out by staff, ensures children's safety is

maintained.

The manager and staff have a good awareness of child protection issues and their responsibilities to ensure children's welfare is paramount. However, although the setting have a copy of the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures, this is not kept on site. It is kept by the committee of the setting off site.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the wide range of activities, including outdoor, which are well planned by the staff. They engage in a variety of worthwhile activities which promote their all round development. They are learning the importance of sharing and taking turns. Staff encourage children to play with each other through good interaction.

Children form good friendships with their peers and they communicate well. They relate well to the adults caring for them and also visitors to the group. They are inquisitive and curious. For example they ask who I am and why I am here. A good range of tactile and musical toys and resources provides stimulation for less able children and helps develop their senses.

Staff are deployed well within the group to ensure all children have opportunities to participate in the full range of activities. Children have access to both indoors and out. They are well behaved, showing a good understanding of the setting's rules and boundaries.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children play well together and are able to freely access the wide range of activities and resources, including those which promote positive images of gender, race, culture and disabilities. Children's individual needs are met well by staff, who exchange information with parents daily in order to provide the children with continuity of care.

Children are generally well behaved. They know, understand and follow the setting rules and boundaries. Staff manage children's challenging behaviour well. They build on children's self- esteem by offering positive praise and encouragement to all the children and recognising their efforts.

All children's individual needs are met and well catered for to ensure that they are all able to participate in the full range of activities planned and provided. Good relationships with parents are formed. Staff ensure parents are kept informed about their child's activities daily and policies and procedures are shared verbally. This contributes to the continuity in the children's care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by five qualified and experienced staff who support them well to ensure they are happy and settled in the group. Good organisation of well planned routines and appropriate activities, which children enjoy, ensures their time in the setting is worthwhile and challenging. Consistent ratios are maintained. The room is used creatively to provide children with effective space to undertake activities in comfort and safety.

Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place. They are understood and followed by staff. Although, the committee have not informed Ofsted of staff changes that are taking place during the manager's absence. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable. This is the first inspection since registration.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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 consistent hand washing procedures are followed
- Ensure all foods brought into the setting by parents and children are stored appropriately
- Ensure Area Child Protection Committee procedures are kept on site
- Ensure the committee inform Ofsted of all staff changes.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)