



Schools Out Priory

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY276713
Inspection date 31 July 2006
Inspector Cathryn Parry

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Registered person Schools Out (Northern) Ltd
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?

Schools Out Priory is owned and managed privately, by Schools Out Northern Limited. It opened in 2002 and operates from a pre-fabricated module and two rooms within Priory Primary School in Tynemouth, North Tyneside. A maximum of 42 children may attend the group at any one time. The group is open each weekday from 07.45 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 18.00 during term time and from 07.45 to 18.00 during school holidays. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 60 children aged from three to under eight years on roll. The group also cares for children aged over eight years. Children come from a wide

catchment area. The group currently supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The group employs five members of staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are learning good personal hygiene practices, through consistent routines and positive role modelling. This is complemented with children participating in related activities, for example, making a display with pictures and a poem about cleaning teeth. Children's health is maintained and the risk of infection minimised as the premises and equipment are clean. Staff have a regular cleaning routine for resources, which is logged, and the school caretaker cleans the rooms daily. Comprehensive policies, very good relationships with parents and relevant training ensure individual children are cared for well should they become ill. This reduces the risk of cross infection.

Children are adequately nourished as staff provide regular snacks, including fruit and biscuits. During the holidays children bring packed lunches, ensuring parents' wishes and specific dietary needs are met well. Information regarding healthy food options is given to parents to promote children's overall well-being. Posters regarding eating five portions of fruit and vegetables a day, and a trip to a healthy food exhibition, encourage children to adopt good life style habits. Children confidently ask for drinks when they are thirsty, as well as having free access to drinking water. All relevant documentation with regard to health, including specific dietary needs and consent forms, are in place and up to date. These positively safeguard children's well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are made welcoming and friendly to children and parents. This is partly due to the staff being approachable and the rooms having attractive displays. The building benefits from natural light and is well ventilated, which promotes children's welfare. Children are generally safeguarded appropriately, as premises are secure and staff supervise children arriving. Should a parent let an unauthorised adult into the club, staff challenge them and request identification. This is supplemented with suitable procedures for adults collecting children. The group's flexible routine and appropriate comfortable furniture incorporates time for quiet play and rest. This enhances children's well-being. Children's play is enhanced as they have play areas, which are large enough for them to move freely, with separate areas for different activities. These include a room for creative activities, a carpeted area for construction and small world play, as well as computers and tables for games and jigsaws. Toys and equipment are stored safely at the children's height encouraging

easy access. Children are able to explore safely using clean and well maintained resources. These are purchased through reputable dealers and conform to British standards.

The majority of safety equipment is in place reducing the risk of accidents. However, there are no socket covers in place, which has a negative impact on children's safety. Staff carry out risk assessments inside and outside on a daily basis to minimise hazards. Routines, such as using the Green Cross Code and tidying toys from the floor, encourage children to take responsibility for their own safety. Children are protected well as staff have a sound understanding of child protection issues. All documentation with regard to safety is in place, however, the lost child policy is not comprehensive, which has a negative impact on children's safety when on outings.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the club and are eager to participate in the variety of activities provided. These include age appropriate computer programmes, group games and building with a variety of construction toys. During term time staff plan to ensure activities link with, but do not overlap, school experiences. This ensures children remain interested and enthusiastic. Planning for the holiday play scheme is more flexible and incorporates twice weekly trips to places of interest. Examples of these include the beach, park, museum and cinema. Children of all ages participate in a wide variety of creative activities such as, painting, sticking, modelling with clay and play dough and making plaster moulds. This encourages their free expression and coordination whilst having fun. The staff regularly extend activities, for example, children explored rock pools and then returned to make a beach wall display. This inspires children to be creative and increases their knowledge of the natural world. A very good balance of child centred and adult led experiences ensures appropriate challenge for their age and stage of development.

Staff consistently respond to children and encourage their thinking, through appropriate questioning. This promotes language and communication skills. Children delight in using their imagination, for example, when playing with the toy aeroplanes. Their mathematical thinking is encouraged through a variety of everyday activities, including scoring during group games and weighing food items when baking. Children explore, test and develop physical control, for instance, when playing football. Staff talk to parents daily and ensure a registration form is completed before children start at the club. This ensures their individual needs are met well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and happy to be in the group. Relationships are very good between the staff and the children, being natural and spontaneous. Individual differences are valued and respected with everyone being encouraged to play a full part in the setting. A children's council is instrumental in the planning of activities and

menus. This is complemented with all children having access to a suggestion book. The staff's confident approach to equal opportunities actively contributes to children's positive attitudes to the wider community. This is complemented with access to a reasonable selection of resources showing positive images of different cultures and people with disabilities.

Staff have experience of working with children with learning difficulties and disabilities, which has a positive impact on all children. Parents are consulted with regard to any special services or equipment needed to meet their child's needs, as well as staff liaising with local schools. Consistent behaviour management ensures children understand right from wrong. This is further promoted with children developing their own club rules. Consequently, children behave well and spontaneously show good manners. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the group, which promotes stability. A child's father who is a fireman came and spoke to the children about fire safety, whilst another's grandma accompanied the group to the beach. Parents are spoken to daily, as well as receiving newsletters and having access to a parents notice board with regularly updated information. This ensures they are aware of associated activities, policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Robust recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are well protected and cared for by suitably qualified and experienced staff. This is carried forward with regular staff meetings and annual individual supervisions. The manager has been involved in childcare for the past 18 years and is continuing to develop and update her knowledge. This along with the other staff's attendance at training has a significantly positive impact on the high quality of care provided. The provision has recently attained the Aiming High quality assurance, level 1. This reflects the commitment of the team to the standard of care offered. Relevant policies, procedures and children's documentation are in place and stored securely to maintain confidentiality.

Children's play opportunities are maximised through the effective organisation of space, time and resources. The rooms are arranged to enable children to play independently and in groups, including table football, board games and parachute activities. The sessions are planned effectively to give a breadth of opportunities, by incorporating as many child led experiences, structured activities and outings as possible. Low level storage of resources enables all children to have free choice.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the provider was asked to conduct a risk assessment on the outdoor play area, identifying action to be taken to minimise safety risks to the children while outdoor play activities take place and to update and maintain the

record of medicines administered to children. Both areas have been appropriately addressed, which has a positive impact on children's overall safety and well-being.

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):

- review the lost child procedure to provide a more comprehensive procedure should a child become lost whilst on an outing
- ensure socket covers are in place.

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