



Strike Lane Care Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY292297
Inspection date	17 July 2006
Inspector	Lynne Naylor
Setting Address	Strike Lane Primary School, Strike Lane, Freckleton, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 1HR
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Registered person	The Committee of Strike Lane Care 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?

Strike Lane Care Club opened in 2004 and operates from Strike Lane Primary School in Preston. It is operated by a committee and serves children who attend the school.

A maximum of 24 children may attend at any one time. The service is open each school day, term-time only, before school from 07.50 until 08.50 and after school from 15.25 until 17.45. Children are cared for in a designated room with a small kitchen area. Children have access to a large outdoor area.

There are currently 58 children on roll, 32 of whom are aged from four years to under

eight years. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Two staff, who hold appropriate child care qualifications, are employed to work with the children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff protect children's health by taking appropriate steps to minimise the spread of infection. They have up-to-date first aid training that enables them to carry out appropriate treatment in the event of injury. Children frequently discuss healthy living issues and participate in themed activities to increase their knowledge. For example, they design fruit baskets and make and display posters about foods they like and those that are good for their health. Children show a clear awareness of good hygiene practices. For example, they put their dropped plate to be washed and get themselves a clean plate for their second slice of toast at snack time. They also follow routine hand-washing procedures, without prompting, and know that washing hands helps to prevent the spread of germs.

The required consents, policies and procedures, relating to health, are in place but lack detail which limits their effectiveness in ensuring continuity of care between staff and parents. A useful system is in place to record accidents and medicine administrations; however, only children's first names are recorded, which makes accurate reading of records difficult.

Children's individual dietary needs are met well using all the relative information obtained from parents. Drinking water and a bowl of fruit are readily available to children at all times during the session. This enables children to identify their own needs and help themselves to drinks and healthy snacks, such as apples and bananas. The snack menu is not specifically planned, therefore, it is not known to children and parents in advance, which hinders their ability to make comments, however, it follows a similar weekly pattern, for example toast, sandwiches, crackers and cheese, yoghurts and fruit.

Children enjoy a wide range of healthy food choices at the breakfast club, for example, yoghurts, range of cereals, fruit, toast, fresh apple juice or mixed juices, such as carrot and orange. Snack-time is a pleasant social occasion with children sitting together and chatting about their day.

Children's health also benefits from vigorous exercise in the fresh air. This is because, weather permitting, children enjoy fresh air and exercise in the large outdoor area. Activities in the hall also keep children fit as they take part in ball games and dance sessions.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment, which is clean and well-maintained. Ample space is available to organise the resources, which enables children to move around freely and safely. Children independently select toys from a good range of clean, safe equipment brought out of the store cupboard, by staff, prior to each session. Toys and equipment, which are regularly checked for safety, meet the needs of the children who attend.

A full written risk assessment is not available; however, staff are very much aware of potential hazards and follow a daily checklist to ensure that children are kept free from harm. Children are kept safe through staff's vigilance and good practice. Children know how to evacuate the building safely as evacuation procedures are practiced regularly. Safe collection procedures ensure that children leave with a known adult. However, the procedure to be followed in the event of a child not being collected is less useful as it refers only to the late collection of children and does not link to the child protection procedures. Children learn to take responsibility for their own safety and are fully aware of safety rules. Rules, agreed by the children, are clearly displayed on posters. Children are encouraged to develop their own understanding of why boundaries are set. They take responsibility for their own actions and the safety of others.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff demonstrate a clear understanding of potential signs of abuse and neglect; also of whom to contact in the event of identifying a child protection concern. The setting's written statement contains most of the required elements. However, the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation against a member of staff is not clear in the documentation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children use the available space well to play together effectively in pairs and in small groups. For example, some children help themselves to a range of pens, pencils, papers and colouring sheets, whilst others happily paint pictures at the tables, sharing their ideas and comparing their work. Some children play imaginatively with the dolls house, some build models with a construction set and some simply relax, in front of the television. Children relate well to each other and engage well in activities, which are suitable for their ages and abilities. They enjoy access to a broad range of activities aimed at promoting their development in all areas. Adults involve children in the activities and ask questions which challenge children or develop their ideas.

Staff loosely plan in advance, interesting activities relating to a theme, that suit children of varying ages and abilities. However, children have little involvement in the planning process so their particular interests are not specifically catered for. Positive relationships are formed between staff and the children who are happy and settled. Staff are attentive to individual children and take a genuine interest in what they are doing in their play. Staff acknowledge children's achievements resulting in raised levels of confidence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued as individuals and treated with equal concern. Photographic records show children enjoy activities based on their own festivals and celebrations, such as at Easter when they made book marks, hats and nests. Children are given some opportunities to increase their knowledge about the world around them, through discussions with staff, and planned activities. However, activities and resources that reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability are less evident on a daily basis.

Staff are good role models, emphasising the importance of being kind, friendly and respectful towards one another. Children take turns to take home and care for the club's bear, which promotes a caring attitude. They write a story about their activities and experiences to share with others on their return. Children know and understand the rules which are consistent. They play harmoniously together and help to tidy away equipment. Children effectively negotiate with each other and take responsibility for their own behaviour. They are well-behaved, polite, take turns and show concern for others.

Children respond well to meaningful praise and this helps to raise their self-esteem and confidence. Children's individual care needs are effectively met. This is because staff obtain the relevant information from parents in order to be in a position to give appropriate care. Parents are provided with basic information that includes the setting's short policy statements and regular newsletters, which provide them with up-dated information about the provision. Parents are very warmly welcomed and chat to staff when they collect their child. The complaints procedure has not yet been amended in line with recent amendments to the National Standards nor has a system to record complaints been implemented.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in a designated room, which has defined spaces where children rest and relax and where they take part in more active games. Space and resources are well organised to keep children safe. The display areas are used well to create a warm welcoming environment and to display information about the club. Good support from management enables staff to access training that in turn helps to enhance the quality of care that children receive. Children are kept safe and healthy since staff show a strong commitment in keeping up-to-date with training. Staff are making steady progress to build on the quality of the service. The small staff team work together well and are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities. This serves to ensure that children are appropriately cared for in the setting.

Staff value the children's ideas and suggestions in all aspects of the provision, however, they do not yet actively seek them. Children are not actively involved in many aspects of the organisation. The required documentation is in place and stored confidentially and staff follow useful policies and procedures, which serves to protect

children. However, many of the written policies and procedures lack detail which limits their usefulness and do little to contribute to the safe and efficient management of the provision. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of 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 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):

- extend the procedure to be followed in the event of a child not being collected
- plan activities which are appropriate to the interests of children attending and in which they have as much choice as possible
- increase awareness of the amendments to the National Standards and implement a system of recording complaints, which can be shared with parents
- improve and extend all policies and procedures so they reflect the practice and can be used to effectively manage the setting.

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:

