



Hillview Link Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY258892
Inspection date	31 July 2006
Inspector	Ron Goldsmith
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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?

Hillview Link Club has been registered since 2003. The club operates from a building at the rear of Hillview County Primary school in Runcorn, Cheshire. The club has sole use of the unit which has two large rooms available for children's play. Enclosed areas are available for outdoor play activities. The out of school club serves children from Hillview and three other local schools.

There are 84 children on roll from four to eight years with children up to 14 years also attending. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The Link Club supports children with learning difficulties.

The setting is open for 50 weeks a year from Monday to Friday. The club opens from 07.30 to 08.50 hours and from 15.00 to 18.00 hours during term time and from 07.30 to 17.55 hours during school holidays.

Five staff work with the children. Four have a National Vocational Qualification Level 2 or 3 in early years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are healthy because they have a balanced range of activities which includes access to outdoor play and physical exercise, when the weather allows. Hygiene procedures are satisfactorily monitored and staff ensure areas are suitably cleaned. Children enjoy lunch boxes which have been prepared by parents who are encouraged to follow suitable procedures for ensuring food is adequately kept cool, by providing ice packs with the food. Some staff have food hygiene certificates.

Children practise moving in different ways, using space well in the indoor area. They play games which requires the ability to control their bodies and balance and respond to instructions, such as the 'detective' game. They use a range of small equipment with increasing skill, they make use of large outdoor play areas and equipment in the nearby school. Children eat nutritious snacks, which contribute to a healthy eating regime, but they have no access to drinking water in their room.

Most staff are qualified to administer first aid. The first aid kit is well maintained and authorisations for treatment are obtained from parents to provide children with good emergency care in case of accidents. Suitable arrangements are in place for dealing with sickness and medication.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, secure and safe environment. The premises are clean and well maintained. Evidence of children's play and activities help make the environment bright and attractive. Children are able to move around the environment with ease and there is adequate space for them to play and move around freely. They independently access resources from tables, trays and boxes at child height. The layout of the furniture in the room offers children good opportunities to spread out their activities and they use this space well and contribute towards safety by tidying up to prevent clutter.

Staff take individual responsibility for safety on a day-to-day basis to protect children. They make assessments of risk in changing circumstances. Staff keep children well supervised at all times indoors and when visiting the school playground or when on trips out to local places of interest. Children learn to be aware of safety issues and to contribute to the safety of others by behaving in an orderly way, such as when they

form queues or prepare tables and chairs. Children are well protected through the provider having a secure knowledge of the child protection procedures that are in line with the local area child protection committee procedures. Children's safety is further promoted by the required parental permissions and documentation for keeping the children safe being in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy coming to the provision. They develop confidence and self-esteem in the secure relationships that are quickly established with each other and with the staff. Good communication with parents enables the staff to take account of children's differing personalities, capabilities, likes and dislikes to help them settle in. Staff are enthusiastic and children respond to their enthusiasm and energy. Children excitedly play games, such as 'Keeper of the keys' and interact well with each other and with staff. They talk enthusiastically about their experiences, as they express their feelings and develop good communication skills.

Staff make good provision for young children to be imaginative and resourceful, and they respond to this in being creative with different resources, such as dressing up. Staff organise their time and facilities well to support children's development. The sessions are well-balanced between adult and child-led activity, which gives children the scope to explore their own ideas in play, as well as engaging in directed tasks where they are challenged to think and respond. Resources are easily accessible to the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn to appreciate their similarities and differences, and value diversity. All children are equally included in activities, which are varied to meet their individual needs and staff have good knowledge to cater for children with learning difficulties. Children learn to care for others and for their environment. Their behaviour is good and this is reinforced through praise and encouragement by staff. Children show consideration to each other and to adults. They make a good contribution to the smooth running of the provision by helping to tidy up, or prepare for lunch by helping to put out the tables and chairs.

Children make choices and take responsibility for decisions, which helps them to develop confidence and a sense of belonging. They help each other in activities and in daily routines. Positive and effective relationships are established with parents by staff, through informal communication on a daily basis, written information, display boards and parents' evenings.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting has a suitable system for appointments and vetting, and records the presence of visitors to ensure that children are protected. Written policies encompass most aspects of the childcare provision so that children stay safe and healthy. Most regulatory records are appropriately maintained to keep children safeguarded. However, the provider has not developed a complaints log and there is no procedure for children who may be uncollected. The staff are experienced and use their good knowledge of the standards, and young children's development, to meet children's individual needs well.

The staff work very well together as a team. Staff training is provided and is linked to appraisals and professional development in order to meet identified needs and support improvements within the setting. Time, space and resources are well-managed to provide a welcoming environment.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the setting agreed to improve record keeping by ensuring that the arrival and departure times of children were accurately recorded in the register of attendance and by keeping a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children, in a way that promotes confidentiality. Both areas have been attended to. Times are recorded and confidentiality is maintained.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints to report.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaint 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):

- ensure fresh drinking water is available to children at all times
- devise a policy for uncollected children and a complaints log.

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