



Little Cherubs

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	501480
Inspection date	20 September 2006
Inspector	Shirley Leigh Monks-Meagher
Setting Address	Little Cherubs, Broadstone Hall Primary School, Broadstone Hall Road South, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 5JD
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Registered person	Karen Kempster
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little Cherubs out of school club has been registered since 2001 and is part of The Little Cherubs group. It operates from a club room with en-suite male and female toilets, a kitchen area and the hall within Broadstone Hall Primary School, in the Reddish area of Stockport. The school playground is available for outdoor play.

The club provides after school care for children who attend Broadstone Hall Primary School and the Fir Tree Primary School. There are currently 30 children on roll, who attend various sessions. Sessions are 03.15 to 17.45, Monday to Friday during term-time only.

There are three staff working with the children, including the registered person. More than half the staff hold relevant childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing an awareness of personal hygiene and confidently follow established routines. Their understanding of the purpose of hand washing after using the toilet and before preparing food helps to prevent the spread of cross infection. However, children are not encouraged routinely to wash hands before eating. Staff implement basic hygiene practices. For example, they clean the tables before snack and wash their hands. Children are generally well protected from accidents and illness. The staff are first aid trained to ensure children receive appropriate care in the event of an accident. The first aid box is accessible but the contents are mainly out of date. Accident records are kept but some are incomplete. A written policy relating to sickness and exclusions is shared with parents.

Children enjoy regular activities which promote their physical skills and contribute towards their good health. Regular opportunities to run, climb and balance are offered in the outdoor play area and the main hall. This increases their fitness levels. Team games help the children develop their co-ordination, organisational and negotiating skills. All children are eager to participate in the 'bulldog' game and demonstrate a positive attitude towards exercise. Activities, discussion and displays are helping the children learn about the value of exercise as part of a healthy life style.

Children are refreshed and hydrated. They frequently help themselves to drinks of water or sugar-free juice. Children develop awareness of healthy foods and benefit from relaxed and enjoyable snack times where they develop their independence, communication and social skills. They engage in activities, such as making fruit kebabs and ham salad wraps, preparing their own snacks and devising menus which they display. Children and staff sit together and chatter about the days events at school or experiences at home and in the club.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and stimulating environment. The play space is organised to sufficiently allow children to engage in a balanced range of activities which promote their learning and development. They can move around safely because hazards are identified and minimised. Staff have knowledge and understanding of the health and safety policies and are generally mindful of children's safety. Children independently and safely select from a wide range of good quality, age appropriate toys and equipment which stimulate their interest. They are clean and well maintained minimising risk to children.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe and respect boundaries. Staff include children when discussing and agreeing rules. As a result, children understand, for example, why they walk indoors instead of running. Children know how to safely evacuate the building in an emergency because they practise on a regular basis. Children's welfare is protected because staff have an understanding of their role with regard to protecting children from harm and neglect. Staff understand how to implement the procedures in the event of concerns. The club

procedures are in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines and are shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enter the out of school club confidently and energetically. They relate well to the staff who join in with their play, such as joining in a game of 'bulldog' and creative activities. Staff talk to children at their level resulting in the children being confident to approach them for assistance and support, for example, when they need help to open the tins of beans.

Children enjoy a broad choice of activities and experiences at the club including tabletop games, small world, reading, cooking, role play, technology and design and physical play, such as basketball and the trampoline. All the children spend their time purposefully at the club. Some play in small groups, others in pairs or independently. Children are totally engrossed in the doll's house; they sort through the tub they have brought from the cupboard, finding and adding furniture and play people to their game. Children use different voices for the characters, bring them to life and act out everyday situations. A game of noughts and crosses has two children gripped. A group of children set-up a travel agents and perceptively act-out the rituals of booking flights, collecting tickets and paying for them. Children are learning to successfully negotiate with each other, share resources and take turns fairly. They develop positive relationships and social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are warmly greeted into the club helping them to feel valued and welcomed. A settling in procedure is in place for new children which enables children and parents to familiarise themselves with the environment and staff. The staff are good role models and have positive strategies in place for achieving appropriate behaviour. Children are encouraged to share resources, take turns fairly and play together; consequently there is a harmonious atmosphere and children are well behaved. They are kind to each other and show respect for their environment. The rules they have thought up together, and display proudly on the wall, clearly show their understanding of right and wrong.

Staff create an environment where all children feel valued and develop positive attitudes towards others. Children make their own decisions about whether to take part in an activity and confidently inform staff about their needs. Staff divide their attention well and treat the children with equal concern. This establishes a sense of security and trusting relationships. Children learn about similarities and differences through planned activities, resources and play materials. For example, children make peg dolls representing children around the world, they colour pictures of disabled sports people, read good quality books which challenge stereotypes and complete positive image puzzles. Children celebrate festivals and traditions and explore foods from around the world, such as fajitas, rice and peas and Chinese spring rolls.

Parents receive information. They are provided with a club brochure which includes policies and procedures, information relating to staff and activities and a mission statement. A parents notice board is accessible to them and contains relevant information, such as a complaints procedure, menu, staff certificates and the Ofsted report. Parents are made to feel welcome and staff establish friendly, open relationships. Written agreements regarding the care and needs of their child are usually established prior to a child attending the group. However, staff allowed two children to attend the group on the day of inspection where no written agreements were in place. This compromises children's safety, welfare and well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The provider implements a robust vetting system which ensures children are cared for by suitably vetted, experienced and qualified adults. The adult to child ratios positively support children's learning and development. Staff organise the play space and resources effectively to enable children to develop independence and initiative in a wide variety of appropriate activities and experiences.

The registered person does not comply with conditions of registration. She does not ensure that all children who attend the setting have reached the minimum age required by the conditions set on her registration certificate. This is a breach of conditions.

The registered person does not ensure that she has a record of the name, address and date of birth for all children that attend. This is a breach of regulations. All children who attend the setting are not recorded on the register. This is a breach of regulations. These actions compromise children's safety, welfare and well-being.

Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group agreed to maintain a record of the times children and staff arrive and depart, provide some additional policies, improve staff interaction with children and develop their planning.

The group have developed policies relating to medication and uncollected children since the last inspection. These are known to all the staff and are shared with parents via the club brochure. This means children's well-being is more fully protected. The group have changed their registration systems. Staff and visitors are required to log their arrival and departure times. The children's registration system consists of staff recording children's arrival and parents signing their children out of the club and noting the time on the signing out sheet. Staff do not always include all children who attend on the register. The staff recognise that this system is proving difficult to manage. The signing sheet is located on the exit door and staff state parents sign against their child's name but often do not enter the time. Staff enter the time in many instances which potentially compromises children's well-being. Staff have worked hard to further develop planning. A wide variety of appropriately challenging activities ensure all

children can follow their interests and maximise their potential in an inclusive and supportive environment.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 1 2004, Ofsted received one complaint relating to National Standard 1: Suitable Person, National standard 2: Organisation, National Standard 6: Safety and National Standard 13: Child Protection. A childcare inspector visited the provision on 15 June 2006. Actions were raised and satisfactorily met by the registered provider. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that conditions of registration relating to minimum age of children who attend are maintained
- ensure the name, home address and date of birth of each child who is looked after on the premises are recorded and their names are included on the daily register.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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