



Stay and Play Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	316385
Inspection date	06 September 2006
Inspector	Susan Elaine Heap
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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?

Stay and Play Out of School Club is a private facility, managed by two individuals and has been registered since 1994. It operates from five rooms at Norden Community Primary School in the Norden area of Rochdale. Only children from the school attend. A maximum of 48 children may attend the club at any one time. It is open each weekday from 07.30 to 08.30 and 15.00 to 18.00 term time only. All children share access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 77 children on roll, of these 40 are aged eight years and under.

The club employs five staff. Of these, three hold appropriate childcare or play work qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment where staff promote good hygiene practice. They follow health and hygiene procedures, such as having cleaning routines for toys and equipment. This contributes to children's health and safety. Most children understand the importance of good hygiene and personal care and wash their hands before their snack after playing outside. However, staff are not consistent in managing this.

Staff are striving to introduce healthy eating options for children but this is not given sufficient priority. For example, fresh fruit is only offered on Fridays. Children do have some opportunities to learn about the benefits of healthy eating through competitions which the staff organise. They know when they need refreshment and independently access drinks and biscuits during the session or after playing outside.

Children have access to fresh air and exercise daily. They actively take part in ball games in the school grounds or take part in music and movement exercises, such as playing on the dance mat. These are all enjoyable and contribute to children's physical and social development and their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe indoor and outdoor environment. There are thorough written risk assessments completed annually of all areas used by children. In addition, daily visual checks are undertaken of the areas used by children and the equipment. Staff are generally proactive in ensuring that children are cared for in a safe environment and most children know to ask a member of staff if they want to play outside or to return indoors. However, not all staff are vigilant in this. For example, children are not always directly supervised when playing outside and some children walk back around and into the school unsupervised. This compromises children's safety and their understanding of how to keep themselves safe. Through discussion, children show a sound understanding of what to do in the event of an emergency evacuation as all children attend the school. However, fire drills are not practised at regular intervals in order to promote their understanding of what to do after school hours.

Children's play and development needs are met through the provision of a good range of safe, quality resources which are kept in good condition. Staff actively seek to purchase equipment which is interesting and fun, such as the inflatable skittle alley.

All the required procedures and documentation are in place to ensure the staff safeguard and promote children's welfare. They have all attended child protection training and have a sound understanding of their responsibilities within the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled in the welcoming environment. They are interested and enthusiastic as they make choices from the broad range of activities which are set out for them. They enjoy making choices about their activities and care and are consulted regularly about how they want to spend their free time, either through questionnaires, verbally on a daily basis, or during the children's meetings. They often use their own initiative and devise the rota for playing air hockey or are actively involved in organising a skittles tournament. Children work cooperatively together as they discuss and agree who is going to take part and who will play against whom. As a result, children are never bored or restless as there is always something to do which interests them.

Children use their imagination and creativity in their play. Some children decide to play in the 'office' with the phones and keyboards while another group are involved in drawing and colouring pictures or playing with the dough.

Children are supported well by knowledgeable staff who respond to them positively to ensure their individual needs are met. For example, by involving the youngest children in table top games. As a result, children form good relationships with the staff.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Relationships between the children are good and they play well together. Children play an active part in the daily routines and take responsibility in the running of the club, such as drawing up ground rules for behaviour. They are increasingly able to manage their own behaviour and play cooperatively together in their play, often negotiating the rules of a game or sharing equipment. For example, a child asks another if he has finished playing with the dough. The child responds, 'No, but we can have half each' and proceeds to share it out between them. There are systems in place for rewarding their achievements and behaviour, such as star charts and prizes. Children's contributions to the group are valued and their views are sought both verbally and by the use of evaluation questionnaires.

Children are valued as individuals and the staff team work closely with parents to ensure each child's individual needs are met. They develop caring and positive relationships and show concern for other children. For example, an older child acts as a 'buddy' to the newest and youngest child. Parents are kept well informed of the care and activities provided for the children through a variety of ways, such as the

parents' notice board, the initial information leaflet or the evaluation questionnaires. They praise the staff highly for their care and commitment to their children and the wide range of activities on offer.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Policies and procedures are used effectively by the staff and are of a good standard to promote the welfare and safety of children. These are all reviewed annually. They are available for parents which keeps them fully informed about all aspects of their children's care and the quality of the service provided. There are effective recruitment procedures and selection procedures in place which means that staff are appropriately vetted and have suitable qualifications. All the legally required documentation is in place and is well-organised.

Staff make the best use of their time and are purposefully engaged in play activities or talking to children. They work well together as an efficient and effective team, and are proactive in identifying areas of development for themselves as individuals, or for the development of the club. This contributes to the quality of children's health, safety and care. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to improve the documentation with regard to the way medication records were stored; include the name and address of the regulator, Ofsted, in the complaints procedure; and improve how policies and procedures are shared with parents. These have all been completed and have improved the confidentiality of how children's records are stored and partnership with parents.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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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The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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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 further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- review snack time provision to ensure that children are provided with healthy and nutritious snacks which reflect the principles of healthy eating
- improve children's understanding of good hygiene practice
- ensure that children are supervised at all times
- ensure that fire drills are practised at regular intervals.

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