



St Mary's out of School club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY330110
Inspection date	18 September 2006
Inspector	Rosemary Beyer
Setting Address	School House, School Lane, Askham Richard, YORK, YO23 3PD
Telephone number	01904 707 125
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Registered person	St Mary's Out of School 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St Mary's Out of School Club was registered in April 2006. It is managed by a committee of parents and other interested persons. The group meets in the old school house of St Mary's school and cares for children of St Mary's school in Askham Richard and children from the surrounding areas. Children have the use of two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs, and secure play areas outside. They also use the school hall for special activities.

The setting is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children aged 3 to 8 years and currently has 34 children on the roll. It is open each weekday during term time from 08.00 to 08.45 and from 15.15 to 18.00. It is also open from 08.00 to 18.00 for some teacher training days. Three staff are employed on a regular basis, all of whom have appropriate qualifications or are working towards them.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well maintained, clean environment, where effective hygiene practice has been developed to prevent the spread of infection. The children independently wash their hands before food and after using the toilet. They help to clean and prepare the food and tables for snack, if they wish to do so.

Children eat well. Food is provided with the emphasis on healthy eating, although their likes and dislikes and any special dietary requirements are also considered when developing the menu. They discuss what is to be available with staff and make suggestions. Children also widen their knowledge of the world by trying different foods, such as the day when they had a variety of breads to try. If the weather is good the children eat outside in the school grounds, using the wooden tables and benches. Each child has a water bottle to ensure they do not become dehydrated, which they take outside; when inside they help themselves to water or juice, depending on choice.

Children have fresh air each day, weather permitting. They use the playground and the school field for ball games, including tennis, table top games and general activities. They also enjoy the fixed climbing equipment, respecting the school rules on use. If the children are tired they rest on the settee or on bean bags inside.

Children who are ill do not attend the group, with parents contacted to collect them if necessary. Suitable recording is in place to ensure medication is administered appropriately and parents consistently acknowledge this in writing. Staff have current first aid certificates and also have written permission to seek medical help in an emergency. Steps are taken to support children who have allergies, with alternative play areas used to prevent exacerbating hay fever and menus planned accordingly.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are collected from the school by the staff who have good contact with classroom teachers and between them they ensure the children are transferred safely. The out of school staff supervise the children well during sessions and the premises are secure. The group has policies and procedures in place to cover uncollected or missing children.

Children are protected by the good knowledge staff have of the child protection procedure. They know how to make referrals and have contact details readily available, along with the flow chart. The staff have completed recent child protection training to update their knowledge.

An annual risk assessment is completed, although the well maintained premises are checked each day before use and any damaged resources are removed for repair or disposal. Resources and equipment are appropriate to meet the needs of the children who attend. The children know where they are allowed to play when both inside and out. They abide by the school code

of practice for the use of climbing equipment on the playing field and also access to the wildlife pond. Dangerous materials are locked away.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are all settled and happy. They have very good relationships with the staff and their peers, and enjoy the activities provided for the group. They are able to help themselves to resources and can make suggestions for future activities. A wide range of appropriate resources is available for the children to use, although while the weather is fine they like to be outside, making use of the school field and playground. They take out equipment for ball games and also some table top toys.

When inside there is access to a computer, with suitable games available. Some children use one of the upstairs rooms to do homework or to sit on the settee to read. The children are able to foster their own interests, such as glass painting and collage work. They have also had activities with wool including learning to knit and making pompoms.

A file of past activities is maintained for future reference and a selection of photographs shows the children enjoying a wide range of experiences. The children co-operate well, with older ones helping and supporting the younger children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are welcome in the setting, and although no children attend at present, staff have past experience of caring for children with different needs and willingly undertake training. A hearing loop is available and suitable toilet facilities. There is also a ramp for access to the building. Staff have an excellent understanding of special needs and clear commitment to purchase equipment and resources to ensure all children are included.

A comprehensive behaviour policy is in place, which includes the procedure to follow if there are concerns about bullying. The children behave very well in the positive encouraging environment. They share, take turns and support each other. Staff work in the school so know the children well and usually know if incidents during the day will affect their behaviour at the out of school. Persistent unacceptable behaviour is addressed in partnership with the parents.

The equal opportunities policy in place ensures the children are treated as individuals and they learn about diversity through the activities provided. Some are carried over from school such as the tasting of bread and other foods from different countries. When new resources are purchased staff ensure they reflect the make up of society, for examples dolls, their clothes and books. Staff challenge sexist, racist or derogatory remarks made by the children, whether intentional or otherwise. They also encourage all children to participate in the full range of activities, with no stereotyping. During the last year the group has celebrated Eid, Diwali, Christmas and Chinese New Year. The children have tried different foods and made sweets. They have also made lamps, lanterns and dragons and Rangoli patterns while learning about the Hindu religion.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are happy with the care and activities their children enjoy. They feel welcome when they arrive to collect their children and to visit the group if they wish to do so. They like the fact the staff also work in the school so know their children well. A brochure is given to new parents with information about the setting, and the policies and procedures are readily available for them to see. A newsletter and notice board keep parents informed about the group.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The staff maintain appropriate recording to ensure the setting is safely and efficiently managed. They display the registration certificate and respect the conditions laid down by providing good supervision. The register is completed as children are collected from school and then collected by their parents. Although the fire evacuation procedure has been updated to suit the new premises, other policies and procedures have not been reviewed recently to ensure children are well cared for in the new setting.

Robust systems are in place for the employment of staff, who are committed to attending training to support their personal development and further enhance their practice. They and the committee have undertaken the necessary clearance procedures. Overall the setting meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that have 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

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):

- devise systems to ensure records, policies and procedures are reviewed regularly to maintain relevance to 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: www.ofsted.gov.uk