



Coton School HBC Voluntary Committee

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY315265
Inspection date	04 July 2006
Inspector	Heidi Falconer

Setting Address	Coton Primary School, Whitwell Way, Coton, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB3 7PW
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Registered person	Coton School HBC Voluntary Committee
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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Coton School Home Club is managed by a voluntary management committee made up of parents of children at the club. It opened in 2005 and operates from a mobile building. It is situated in the grounds of Coton Primary School in the village of Coton, Cambridgeshire. A maximum of 24 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 08.00 to 08.50 and from 15.30 till 18.00 during school term time. All children have access to an outdoor play area.

There are currently six children aged from four to under eight years on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area. The out of school club employs four members of

staff. Of these, one is working towards an early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's good health is appropriately promoted and they are protected from infection because staff follow appropriate hygiene procedures. For example, they act as good role models washing their hands prior to handling food and wiping down surfaces before serving food to children. Children are learning about suitable personal hygiene routines, with gentle reminders from staff they wash their hands before snack time and after handling the hamster. Children's medical needs are generally well met as parental consents for first aid and the administration of medication are obtained and recorded appropriately. This supports children's good health. If children have an accident at the setting they are generally well cared for. Accidents are recorded and shared with parents appropriately. However, there is not always a member of staff on duty who holds a current first aid qualification. The risk to children of this not being in place has been minimised because there is always a first aid trained member of staff on the school site who could be called upon in an emergency. All staff who work at the club have been booked on training courses which they are due to attend very shortly.

Children enjoy using a suitable range of physical equipment, both indoor and outdoors, such as footballs, badminton sets, skipping ropes and basketball nets to develop their skills. Staff have plans in place to develop these resources to further extend physical play activities for the children. Children have the space to 'chill out' after attending school and relax in quiet areas with their friends watching television for short periods of time. This ensures that all children benefit from physical activity and quiet time so they are happy and content.

Children are suitably nourished and they learn about making healthy choices. They have toast with a selection of toppings on arrival at the group and at five o'clock they enjoy further snacks such as strawberries, oranges or a slice of cake. Fresh drinking water is available for children to access independently throughout the session, allowing them to respond to their bodies needs. Children's individual dietary needs are met as clear information is gathered from parents about allergies or special dietary requirements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and well maintained environment where potential risks have been minimised. For example, cleaning products are stored on a high shelf to ensure that they are inaccessible to children. Children's safety is further supported because the staff have appropriate policies and procedures in place. For example, they have considered and developed procedures of what they would do if a

child was lost or uncollected. There are satisfactory measures in place to ensure that the provision is kept secure. Staff are currently reviewing these procedures to ensure that children do not leave the premises unattended and that visitors are unable to enter the premises unannounced. Children are learning to keep themselves safe in the event of a fire. Staff have recently introduced fire practises with the children to ensure that they know how to evacuate the building safely.

Children have access to a suitable range of toys and equipment, all of which are safe and appropriate for the ages of the children attending. Some resources are organised in low-level storage units to allow children the ability to develop their freedom of choice and decision-making skills.

Children's welfare is protected because staff understand their role in child protection. Staff understand the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child or if an allegation was made against a member of staff. Their procedures are in line with their Local Safeguarding Children's board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very confident and settled at the group. On arrival they quickly become involved in activities selecting from activities which are set out or independently choosing resources from low-level storage units. Children enjoy their time because the resources and activities provided are well suited to the ages of the children. As a result children are stimulated and happily occupied at the club. For example, on the day of the inspection the children were busily engaged in creative activities such as painting and playing with play dough. There is a strong emphasis on creative activities at the group and children take an active role choosing what to construct or draw. One child drew a picture of a 'Robot Droid' and talked to staff about how they could make a model of his drawing. Children's self-esteem is promoted because staff have a high regard for their creations. Children have created a large wall display of a city to which they regularly add their drawings of people, monsters and vehicles. In addition the children write stories about the city and these are kept in a folder in the middle of the city mural. Recent creative activities include making a totem pole, a race track, a home club shop with a working light and a hamster run.

At the end of their school day children have the opportunity to relax or be active in accordance with their needs and interests. For example, some children choose to relax watching television for short periods of time whilst others choose to play games with others. Consistent routines for playing outside and snack time help children to feel settled. Staff listen to children and take into account their wishes and interests. For example, older children at the group enjoy making up songs and routines which they like to perform to the group. Staff provide them with opportunities to practise these and then show them to the group. On the day of the inspection some children made up a song about 'muscles' and performed this to the group.

The younger children show great enthusiasm for watching these shows and display their enjoyment through smiles and laughs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children of all ages play together harmoniously with resources, for example, they happily paint boxes for creative projects together to create group art projects. Through games such as 'Connect Four' they are learning to share and take turns as they play the 'winner stays on game'. Children are learning what is expected of them through consistent guidelines from staff. Staff and children have discussed the rules of the setting so that children learn acceptable codes of behaviour.

All children are included in the club's activities. They make choices, for instance, contributing ideas for creating pictures and models. For example, the children have recently made a totem pole and suggested ideas and made the faces on it. The pictures they have created on it show their understanding of their world around them, for example, one character is an England football supporter supporting the world cup.

Relationships with parents are friendly. Children benefit from open communication between parents and staff. Parents are able to discuss their children's individual needs with staff at any time and regular newsletters keep them informed about activities and changes at the club. Written records such as, accident logs are shared appropriately with parents. In addition the group have recently developed a system for logging complaints which can be shared with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation of the environment is effective in ensuring that children are cared for in a safe environment. Staff make suitable use of the indoor and outdoor areas so that children are provided with plenty of space to allow them to move around freely in their chosen activity. Children are confident and happily occupied at the club. They select resources independently and make free choices about how they spend their time at the club.

The setting's documentation is generally well organised to support children's safety and well-being. However, some records relating to staff and committee members are not stored on the premises and were unavailable for inspection. Children's records are stored in a locked cupboard to ensure that their confidentiality is maintained. A wide range of policies have just been put in place and provide staff with a suitable foundation to develop positive outcomes for all of the children who attend. However, because they are very new staff they are not fully familiar with them all. Appropriate procedures are in place for vetting staff. As a result children's safety and welfare at the group is supported. This ensures that children are cared for by adults who are suitable to work with children. The manager is working towards a level three qualification in playwork, however the group have not developed an action plan to show how at least half of the staff will achieve a level two qualification. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 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

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):

- ensure that all staff are familiar with the settings new policies and procedures
- develop the action plan with timescales which outlines how 50% of staff will hold an appropriate qualification
- ensure that at least one first aid qualified member of staff is on the premises each day
- ensure that all records relating to staff and committee members are available for inspection at all times

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