



# Copthorne Preparatory School

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY288842
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 July 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	June Fielden
<b>Setting Address</b>	Effingham Lane, Copthorne, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 3HR
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<b>Registered person</b>	Copthorne School Trust
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Copthorne After School Club (known as the Waiting House) is operated by the Copthorne School Trust. It opened in 2004 and operates from a classroom at Copthorne School. They have shared access to the school dining hall at meal times. The School is situated in Copthorne, near Crawley. A maximum of 16 children may attend the after school club at any one time. The after school club is open between the hours of 15:30 to 18:00 each week day during term time. Children have access to two enclosed outdoor play areas. The after school club runs a Holiday Club during part of the Christmas, Easter and summer school holidays. A maximum of 16 children may attend the holiday club at any one time.

There are currently 40 children on roll at the after school club. They are aged from 3 years to under 8 years. After school care is provided for children attending the Copthorne Preparatory School or the Coach House Nursery within the setting. The after school club supports a number of children with special educational needs.

The after school club employs five members of staff, four of whom have an appropriate early years qualification. The fifth member of staff will shortly be receiving training. They are supported by the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff ensure children are not thirsty, as drinks are provided with their meals. Children independently help themselves to squash or water at other times. They are well nourished, as children are provided with a snack as well as a cooked meal. Qualified kitchen staff prepare the food, offering a different meal each day to ensure children have a varied diet.

Staff support children's good health by reminding them to wash their hands before they eat. Children use hand dryers in the toilet area which help protect them from infection. Medication administered to children is carefully monitored and accidents are recorded. However, children's health is not always safeguarded, as the accident book for the holiday club is not signed by parents.

Children enjoy physical exercise in the two enclosed outdoor play areas, which are used daily unless it is raining. They engage in a wide range of activities on the equipment provided, which keeps them fit and healthy.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children attending the after school club have access to a wide range of school facilities, from the dining hall to soft-surface play areas and bright cheerful classrooms. Children benefit from using the school buildings that are warm and well equipped, with furniture appropriate to their needs.

Regular risk assessments ensure hazards are identified, enabling children to move around freely and safely. Children know how to keep themselves safe from harm, as staff discuss safety issues with them. For example, one child explained all the things he should not do in order to keep himself and others safe. His explanation included not running around the school buildings or jumping off the climbing frame. Staff ensure safety measures such as fire extinguishers and socket covers are in place to protect children from harm. However, the club does not hold fire drills, so all children may not be aware of how to leave the building safely in the event of a fire.

Staff have all had recent training in child protection and have a good understanding of the procedure to follow in order to keep children safe from harm. If the manager had concerns about a child she would carefully monitor the situation to safeguard child's welfare.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children play happily in the welcoming atmosphere of the after school club. Staff divide the space available into different areas that include interesting displays, colourful wall boards and posters designed to stimulate children's interest.

There are a good range of resources to interest children and develop their learning. Children choose from activities and toys that are regularly rotated by supportive staff, encouraging them to become independent in their play. Staff involve children in packing the toys away at the end of the session, developing their sense of responsibility for the resources they use.

Staff show interest in children's activities and provide them with opportunities to extend their knowledge of the world. For example, using the resources provided by staff one group of children were drawing the flags of different countries and the people that live there. Staff question children about the models they make with the construction equipment, providing assistance to help them develop their ideas.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well-behaved. Staff know the children well as they also care for them during the school day. As a result children understand the boundaries and enjoy a good relationship with staff. Staff treat children with respect and they respond accordingly. They praise children for their accomplishments which boosts their self-esteem.

Staff greet parents warmly. They are pleased with the care their children receive. Parents speak to staff at the end of the day if there is information they need to exchange. However, parents are unaware of how to make a complaint to Ofsted in order to safeguard children's interests.

Children with special needs integrate well within the group, as staff provide the necessary resources to meet their requirements. They provide a meaningful range of activities to promote a positive view of different cultures. Staff increase children's understanding of diversity and how festivals are celebrated in other countries around the world.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The staff make good use of the outdoor facilities available to promote children's good health. Children benefit from having access to the toys and resources used by the school during the day. Staff are deployed effectively and spend time with children as they participate in different activities. They provide continuity of care. However, the after school club have not provided Ofsted with information regarding the staff employed by them. They do not have a formal system in place to provide emergency cover to ensure the correct number of staff are available at all times. The club intends to put procedures in place to remedy these oversights and ensure children's well being is maintained. The needs of all children who attend the club are met.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report since registration.

## **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 the appropriate adult/child ratios are maintained at all times and that a formal system is in place to provide emergency cover
- ensure the necessary checks are completed on all new members of staff and that Ofsted are informed of staff changes
- ensure the holiday club accident book is signed by parents
- ensure parents are aware of how to make a complaint
- ensure fire drills are carried out periodically.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)