



## Ashover School Child Care (Ashover Out Of School C

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	207212
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Justine Ellaway
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<b>Registered person</b>	Ashover School Child Care
<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 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?

Ashover School Child Care opened in 1995. It operates from Ashover Primary School nursery room, pavilion room and a porta-cabin within the school grounds. A maximum of 80 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday during term time from 15.30 to 18.00. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 130 children aged from four to under eight years on roll. Children come from the local area.

The club employs four members of staff to work with the under eights. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children's good health and hygiene is not sufficiently promoted during the session. Although children are asked to wash their hands when they arrive, they then go and play before eating their snack. The room is not always checked for cleanliness prior to the session which means that on occasion the toilets are not sufficiently stocked with paper towels for hand drying and toilet rolls. Children play on a carpet that has not been suitably tidied and cleaned and the toilet floor is not always hygienic.

The risk of cross-infection is minimised as children who are ill or infectious are excluded and parents are made aware of this procedure at the time of registration. Children receive appropriate care if they have an accident as two members of staff have a first aid qualification and permission has been sought to obtain emergency medical treatment or advice. Although records are kept of any accidents, they are not always signed by parents to ensure that information regarding children's health is shared. Also, records do not ensure confidentiality as several accidents are detailed on one page. Appropriate procedures are in place to ensure that permission is sought prior to administering medication. However, staff are not clear on the information that should be recorded and that records should be signed by parents to acknowledge the entry, to ensure children's health needs are met when they are ill. No medication has been administered to children since the last inspection, minimising the risk to children when they are ill.

Children enjoy regular opportunities for physical activity as they can choose to play outdoors when the weather is fine during sessions. They have independent access between the inside and outside which promotes development of their physical skills. Children are reasonably well nourished. The setting has recently introduced new snacks so healthy eating is promoted. Snack is either fruit, bread, cheese and crackers, toast or biscuits. Parents are not given information on what snacks children have to ensure they are fully informed about their child's food intake whilst at the setting. Children sit in self-chosen groups at snack time which encourages development of their social skills. Their independence is not fully encouraged because drinks are pre-poured and handed out by staff members.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children happily enter the welcoming environment. A selection of toys and resources are laid out during the session and children can help themselves or ask for other resources if they want them. A suitable range of toys and resources are available, including dressing-up, cars, art and craft, role play and books. Most of the resources are accessible to children, promoting their independence. Children have space to play on the floor or sit at table and chairs to do activities.

Children are cared for in a safe indoor environment. Staff supervise the door as well as the outside area so they are aware when children are being collected. Parents are asked to sign the register to promote children's safety. Children know how to keep calm in the event of an emergency as they practise the emergency evacuation procedures regularly. A daily checklist

has been devised to ensure that areas are safe for children to use before they arrive, although this is not always completed. A risk assessment has not been devised to regularly review and identify any possible hazards. Lost and uncollected child procedures have been developed, although not all staff are fully familiar with the procedures to ensure they act promptly to promote children's safety in the event of an emergency.

Children's safety and welfare is mostly promoted in relation to child protection. Most staff demonstrate an understanding of the different types of abuse and possible signs and symptoms. A written statement has been produced that contains the procedures to follow in the event of any concerns. However it does not contain procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation against a member of staff.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and confident as they enter the setting. They walk in talking to their friends and are greeted by staff as they arrive. They are comfortable with the environment and upon entering the room find a space at the snack table.

Children have access to a suitable range of toys and activities with the occasional structured activity such as baking. They engage in free play and enjoy colouring, role play and playing outdoors. Staff usually interact with the children, particularly indoors, as they are playing which encourages their involvement and enjoyment. They promote children's self-esteem as they talk to them about what they are doing or what they have been doing at school.

Children show an interest in the toys and resources. They engage in play for long periods of time during the session and are usually effective at finding something for themselves to do.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to choose what they do at the setting which promotes their independence and decision making. Children are given appropriate support and encouragement to enable them to feel secure. Children with special needs receive appropriate care and support whilst at the setting. A satisfactory policy is in place which supports the care provided. A satisfactory selection of toys and resources are available for children to learn about the wider world.

Children understand responsible behaviour and play well together. They share the toys and resources and negotiate when more than one child wants to play with the same toy. They are aware of the rules of the club and know what the expectations are in terms of behaviour, for example, not hurting each other. They form their own groups and play together harmoniously. Appropriate methods are used to manage children's behaviour. Staff are effective role models and encourage a calm and friendly atmosphere. As a result children enjoy their time at the setting. However, the setting does not have a written statement on behaviour management that is shared with parents to ensure consistency of care for children.

Parents are given a brief information sheet at the time of placement about the setting. Some of the policies and procedures are available for them to view on the notice board. Parents can speak to staff members at the end of a session. A complaints procedure has been devised although it is not currently made available to parents of children under eight years. As a result consistency of care is mostly maintained.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

There are appropriate procedures in place to ensure that all newly appointed staff are suitable to work with children. Satisfactory induction arrangements are in place to ensure that new staff are familiar with their role. Required adult child ratios are maintained to ensure children receive appropriate care whilst at the setting. Staff are mostly effectively deployed throughout the session to provide care and support for children who attend.

Systems are in place for staff to share information, however they are not fully effective. The person in charge does not always communicate with staff at the beginning of the session to ensure they are clear about their duties during the session. This means that sometimes certain things are not completed, for example, the safety checklist prior to when the children arrive. As a result children's health and safety is not always fully promoted. The organisation at the beginning of the session is not always effective. Although staff arrive before the children the snack is sometimes not prepared until after the children have arrived, even though children are instructed to immediately wash their hands and sit down at snack tables. The ineffectiveness of the organisation at the start of the session does not contribute to children's enjoyment at the setting.

All of the required information is gathered and maintained on the children who attend. Paperwork is not effectively organised and staff members are unable to find certain written information easily. Policies and procedures do not currently work in practice to promote children's health and safety. A selection of the policies and procedures are displayed on the notice board to promote consistency of care. However, the behaviour management and complaints policy are not displayed. The child protection policy does not contain all of the relevant information. Staff are not fully familiar with the procedure for lost or uncollected children. As a result children's safety and welfare is not effectively promoted, particularly in the event of an emergency or serious incident. Overall children's needs are not met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the setting was to complete an action plan to ensure that the Person in Charge is suitably qualified to work with children and that the correct ratio of qualified staff are on duty at any one time. To ensure the sickness exclusion policy is available to parents in the after school care provision. To devise and make available to parents, a written statement on special needs which is consistent with current legislation and guidance and to ensure that this is understood and implemented by all staff. To make available to parents the written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed regarding complaints. To ensure that the child protection procedure for the out of school care complies with local Area Child

Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures and includes how to manage any allegations against staff.

Four members of staff work with the under eights and three have a level 3 qualification in childcare. Ratios are followed so that there are always two adults on duty and one member of staff to every eight children. As a result children receive appropriate care and support whilst at the setting.

The sickness policy is shared with parents at the time of registration. As a result children who are ill or infectious are excluded to promote the good health of all children who attend.

A written statement on special needs has been devised and is shared with parents via a notice board. As result children with special needs receive appropriate care.

A written procedure is available for complaints, however this is not shared with parents of children under eight years. As a result there are ineffective systems for parents to promptly raise concerns and issues and ensure consistency of care and to promote children's welfare. An action has been raised.

The child protection procedure does not include procedures to follow in the event of an allegation against a member of staff. Insufficient consideration has been given to this procedure. As a result children's welfare and safety is not effectively promoted in the event of an emergency or serious incident. An action has been raised.

### **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**

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 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 good hygiene is consistently promoted during the session
- ensure that accident records are signed by parents

- ensure that staff clearly understand all of the policies and procedures; that the child protection policy includes the procedure for allegations against a member of staff; that the complaints procedure is shared with parents and that there is a written statement for behaviour management which is shared with parents

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 *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)