



Heage Out Of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	207285
Inspection date	04 August 2006
Inspector	Diana Pidgeon

Setting Address	School Lane, Heage, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 2AL
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Registered person	Janet Bryan
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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?

Heage Out of School Club was registered in 2000. It is a privately owned club that operates from Heage Primary School and serves the local rural community. Children have use of the school hall and enclosed outdoor play area. The club is open from 07:45 to 09:00 and 15:00 to 18:00 during school term times and 08:00 to 18:00 during holidays.

The club is registered to accept a maximum of 24 children from three years to under eight years of age. Children over eight also attend. Currently there are 83 children from five to 11 years on roll. There are seven staff who work with the children, five of

whom hold recognised early years qualifications. One member of staff is currently working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy and enthusiastically participate in a wide range of energetic physical activities which contribute to their healthy lifestyle. Activities such as dancing interest and engage many children. They demonstrate their street dance and make up their own routines that they then perform for others. All children develop their confidence and skills as they use a range of equipment outdoors and take part in planned organised sports. Regular opportunities to be outdoors and to go for walks in the fresh air ensure they all spend some time engaged in active pursuits. Children know when they need to rest and readily sit in quiet areas where they can relax with friends.

Children help themselves to drinks, especially after exercise, as water is always available from the drinks station during all sessions. Their nutritional needs are suitably met through the provision of meals and snacks. Healthy breakfast choices are available before school and a light tea provided in the after school club. During holidays children benefit from additional snacks and a light lunch that is prepared on the premises. Menus are shared with parents and any dietary needs accommodated so that children have foods that they enjoy. Some consideration is given to promoting healthy eating. For example, fresh fruit is always available and served with meals. Children sometimes pick foods, such as courgettes and strawberries, from the school garden and taste these as part of their snacks. This contributes to their wider understanding of the benefits of eating fresh produce.

Children independently address their personal care needs and routinely wash their hands before eating. They are protected from infection because staff maintain good levels of hygiene, ensuring that surfaces are cleaned before eating and that food is prepared appropriately. Children stay healthy because clear guidance, regarding both children's and staff's attendance at the setting if they are unwell, protects them from illness and infection. Generally appropriate management of accidents and the administration of medication ensures children's health needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children learn how to stay safe and are encouraged to develop responsibility for their own safety. They become familiar with safety procedures, such as evacuating the premises in an emergency, and understand when and where it is safe to remove their shoes. Staff are very clear about their responsibilities for checking the facilities and supervising children to keep them safe. Effective security is in place to ensure unauthorised persons are not admitted to areas where children play. Appropriate

steps are taken to ensure children are cared for in a safe and welcoming room within the school. Activities are attractively presented and allow space for children to move around freely and to make choices in their play. Children access the outdoor area directly from the hall and this is securely enclosed. Good attention is given to providing areas for quieter play outside. For example, children dig in a sandpit. Careful attention is given to ensuring some play areas are shaded, so that children's overall safety is assured.

Children's welfare is protected because staff clearly understand their role in protecting children and are able to put the appropriate procedures into practice if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a balanced range of activities that interest and engage them. Staff plan a variety of activities for the children each day and include ideas from the children themselves so that activities are built around their ideas and interests. In holidays the planned routines include regular weekly outings to local places of interest, such as a stone centre, farm and country park. These, combined with visiting workshops, help children learn about a wide variety of topics and inspire further play in the club. For example, children are making their own museum in the club and are creating displays relating to local history and geology. Children are eager to get involved in the available activities, such as using the wealth of creative materials to make pictures and models of their choice. They enjoy being together and involve their friends in imaginative or electronic games. Children work cooperatively to devise dance routines that they perform for the others. Good relationships with the staff help children to feel secure and their gentle encouragement to join in builds children's confidence well. This enables younger children to stand up and sing and take part in their much enjoyed concerts.

Children enjoy exploring outdoors and very good use is made of the school grounds and rural area. Small gardening projects, building dens and feeding birds help children learn about the natural world about them. Children readily make up their own games outdoors, for example by playing imaginatively in the playhouse or attempting to fly a small kite. These opportunities help them to develop new skills while having fun.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are able to join in and play a productive part in the setting. Staff know all the children well and form good relationships with parents so that they can meet each child's individual needs effectively. Clear records are held so that parents' wishes are known and regularly reviewed. They are kept well informed through regular newsletters, notice boards and access to relevant policies and procedures. A clear and up to date complaint procedure exists to enable parents to voice any concerns.

Relevant complaint records are held and are available on request, so ensuring all aspects of care are transparent.

Staff have a good understanding of promoting equality of opportunity and promote awareness of other cultures and beliefs through relevant activities. Children actively form relationships with older persons in the community and with children at other schools and clubs, which helps to broaden their awareness of different lifestyles. Clear systems are in place to ensure children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are included. All children are encouraged to participate in activities and given appropriate adult support to do so. They help prepare meals and snacks, by making their own sandwiches or pouring drinks for others. This encourages children to take responsibility for themselves and others. Children generally behave well, take turns and respond positively to the agreed boundaries in place. They understand the expectations for their behaviour and mostly use good manners and are kind and considerate to one another. Staff ensure any incidents are dealt with calmly and fairly and ensure that positive behaviour and achievements are rewarded with praise. This helps to promote children's confidence and self-esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by a dedicated and knowledgeable staff team. Effective recruitment procedures ensure appropriate people are employed to work with the children. Most staff hold relevant childcare qualifications and continue to undertake a variety of training, which serves to keep their knowledge and skills up to date. Staff mainly work on a part-time basis, according to the times or days care is provided. This allows flexibility to cover staff absence through holidays or illness. Deployment is generally satisfactory with adult child ratios always maintained. However, on the day of inspection no staff present held a current first aid certificate. This potentially compromises children's overall welfare.

Policies and procedures are understood and implemented by staff. All records are maintained in a suitable manner and are used to support children's care. Children are well settled and happily take part in the activities provided. Staff offer appropriate support and suggestions to ensure all children are purposefully engaged. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the provider has updated the complaint procedure to include Ofsted detail and displays the relevant poster that explains how parents can comment about the service they receive. This ensures parents have all the relevant detail to enable them to raise any concerns.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004. 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):

- review the deployment of staff to ensure at least one member of staff with a current first aid training certificate is on the premises at any one time.

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