



Southam Primary School Out Of School Care

Inspection report for early years provision

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Registered person	Southam Primary Before and After School Care
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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Southam Primary Out of School Care opened in 1995. It operates from a large classroom in Southam Primary School, Warwickshire. A maximum of 35 children may attend the setting at any one time. During term time the setting offers a breakfast club from 07:30 to 08:45 and after school care from 15:00 to 18:00. A full day care holiday play scheme runs in school holidays which is open from 08:30 to 17:30. The setting is open for 48 weeks per year and generally closes for the February and October half term breaks and for the last two weeks of the summer break. The school playground is available for use daily with the hall used in wet weather and for indoor games during the play scheme.

There are currently an average of 24 children attending the play scheme daily, aged from 4 to 11 years. During term time the setting offers a service to children who attend Southam Primary School; the play scheme is open to the wider local community. The nursery currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and is able to support children who speak English as an additional language.

A total of six staff work with the children over the various sessions. Two staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and two staff are completing qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health within the setting is generally supported successfully and children routinely follow personal hygiene routines, for example, hand washing after using the toilet and before eating. Tablet soap is used causing a risk of cross-infection. Children are cared for should they have an accident or become ill because staff are first aid trained and contact details for each child are in place. However, the first aid kit is poorly stocked and therefore appropriate emergency equipment may not be readily available. Children's well-being is monitored closely by staff and procedures are in place for the administration of medication and the recording of accidents, ensuring parents are fully informed about their child. Children develop independence skills well, getting ready for lunch.

Children understand the importance of keeping themselves healthy with plenty of drinks and a healthy diet, for example, water is available on request and regular drinks and snacks are offered. They enjoy milk shakes with ice cream. Children's dietary needs are always met as procedures ensure that all staff are clear about a child's individual needs. Staff have completed food hygiene training and ensure that food is stored safely, for example, monitoring and recording refrigeration temperatures and encouraging parents to use ice blocks in lunch boxes.

Children benefit from a wide variety of physical play using the playground and school grounds. Interesting fixed equipment encourages children to develop balancing and climbing skills. Children enjoy bringing their bicycles and scooters to the play scheme, having races around the playground. They organise their own games, cooperating with each other and playing with all age groups, for example, dodge ball.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and confident in the out of school environment where there is plenty of space indoors and outdoors. Children benefit from the policies and procedures in place that ensure their safety, for example, arrival and departure procedures, registration and the security of the building. Risk assessments are in place.

Children enjoy the wide range of appropriate play equipment which includes toys and books that reflect all areas of equal opportunities. Equipment is well-maintained and cleaned regularly. Children are comfortable requesting specific items and activities, organising their own play with friends, for example, helping younger friends to make friendship bracelets. Children have easy access to a lot of equipment. Staff are deployed well, ensuring children are supervised in all areas at all times.

Children have been involved in developing the club rules and consequently develop an awareness of staying safe, for example not running indoors in order to avoid collisions and accidents. They are given regular opportunities to discuss and practise emergency evacuation; fire drills are not always recorded and therefore there is no written evidence available for the fire officer. Fire safety equipment is checked regularly. Risk assessments are in place and reviewed regularly. Written policies support the safety procedures for children, for example, for lost or uncollected children.

Children's welfare is generally safeguarded as senior staff have a sound understanding of child protection policies and procedures and are able to recognise abuse and neglect. Clear procedures are not in place should professional abuse be suspected. Staff complete child protection training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and happy in the club's welcoming environment. They respond well as they are greeted personally by staff and their friends. They settle quickly to the wide variety of activities provided. Children build strong relationships with their peers and with staff, enabling them to take part in organised or supervised activities or to plan and organise their own play and have lots of fun.

Children enjoy discussing the plans for the session and develop confidence as they request specific activities, for example, glitter and glue to complete masks. There is a wide range of resources which spark the children's interest and keep them busy, for example, cookery and papier mache. All the children benefit from active physical play indoors and outdoors including the bouncy castle. They are able to take full advantage of the fixed equipment in the playground, completing challenging activities using swing ropes and bars. Many children enjoy completing art and craft activities, discussing design and colour confidently with staff, as they draw and colour pictures and patterns. Relationships between the children are strong as they chat and play together, with staff providing unobtrusive supervision.

Children are offered opportunities to increase their learning and skills as they use the computer and electronic games. They are offered appropriate interesting activities because staff take responsibility for planning, communicate well and respond flexibly to the requests of the children, effectively ensuring the children's well-being and enjoyment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing respectful relationships with staff and each other because the staff are role models and encourage good manners and consideration. Children's confidence and self-esteem increases in the busy environment, as they select activities and talk to staff, voicing their opinions and choices. Children are proud of their art work and look forward to showing it to their parents. They appreciate the praise offered when they respond to requests from staff and help each other, for example, helping to tidy up before snack.

Children behave well within the boundaries set by staff and the club rules they have developed themselves. They are valued as individuals and the policies and procedures in place ensure that all children are included in all activities and all their needs are met, for example special educational needs and dietary requirements. They are developing an understanding of the needs of others as they are praised for sharing and showing concern for a friend.

Partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. Relationships are friendly and parents appreciate the flexible service offered by the setting. Parents discuss all aspects of the care offered with staff and the daily events and their child's achievements. The complaints procedure does not include the contact number of the registration authority, limiting the options for parents wishing to make a complaint. Information is provided on the notice board including activity plans, policies, and some community news.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe environment because the registered person uses appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures. Children are supported well in their play and recreation because the ratio of staff to children is maintained. Staff communicate effectively amongst themselves and with parents, ensuring that the promotion of the children's health, safety, learning and enjoyment is a priority.

Children benefit from skills of the staff team, enjoying opportunities for conversations, organised activities and appropriate support when planning their own activities. Staff complete short courses and add to their existing qualifications, for example, first aid and health and safety. They are dedicated to the well-being of the children and work well as a team during the daily routines and activities. The flexible planning and organisation ensures that the children have their individual needs and aspirations met.

All staff and parents have easy access to all policies and procedures which generally work in practice ensuring children's safety, enjoyment and achievements. Visitors are not always monitored and their presence recorded creating a safety risk. Parents are asked to provide all the relevant information to ensure the service meets their needs, for example, allergies. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection the setting was asked to ensure that written policies for lost and uncollected children are in place, to ensure accident records are signed by parents and to ensure that activities and resources promote equality of opportunity. The setting was also asked to review the child protection policy.

Satisfactory progress has been made with all the recommendations. Children have access to a variety of equipment and books reflecting equal opportunities and all the children have access to all available activities. An effective procedure is in place ensuring that parents sign accident records and written policies are in place for lost or uncollected children. The child protection policy has been reviewed, however, it does not reflect the procedure should there be an incident of professional abuse. This has been carried forward to a recommendation on the present inspection report.

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 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 children's health needs are met appropriately, with reference to the use of liquid soap and the contents of the first aid box
- ensure staff are aware of and discuss the policy and procedure in the case of professional abuse and that it is included in the written child protection policy
- ensure that the complaints procedure is reviewed to include the option to take a complaint directly to Ofsted, including relevant contact numbers
- ensure visitors are monitored and recorded and that fire drills are recorded in the fire safety log.

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