



Flamingo Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	301870
Inspection date	20 September 2006
Inspector	Ann Marie Lefevre
Setting Address	St. Roberts First School, Oldgate, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 1QF
Telephone number	01670 512031
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Registered person	St Robert's Flamingo Club Ltd.
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Flamingo Club was registered in May 1994. The setting provides places for a maximum of 30 children at any one time. The children are aged from three to eight years. Older children, up to the age of 12 years, are also able to attend. There are currently 70 children on the roll.

Childcare is provided at St Roberts RC First School which is located in Morpeth town centre. Children are accommodated in the large school hall. There are toilet and kitchen facilities in the setting. The school playground and enclosed quadrangle are used for outdoor activities. Children attend from the first school and also from other schools in the area. Sessions are available from Monday to Friday in term time from 08.00 to 09.00 and from 15.15 to 19.00.

The group is committee led. The staff team consists of an appropriately qualified leader and a deputy who are responsible for the day-to-day care of the children and three other regular members of staff. Students and volunteers are welcomed into the setting. There are strong links with the school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to take responsibility as they gain an insight into why it is important to maintain personal health and hygiene in their daily routines and activities. They are encouraged to wash their hands before handling food, after going to the toilet and after messy play. A good regime is maintained with the use of soap dispensers and paper towels which are hygienically disposed of in designated bins in the toilet area. The need for hygiene is reinforced during discussions with staff when children learn why cleanliness is necessary. They also learn from the positive staff role models and they respond well to requests to keep their play area tidy and are happy to give willing assistance in clearing playthings away.

Children's health requirements are highlighted in the recording systems and policies in relation to their needs. These are maintained to ensure that parents and staff are kept informed about any health issues. The necessary information is in place and kept up to date. Staff members have completed first aid training. A well stocked first aid kit is available for indoor use and also taken out when children are playing outdoors. There are other first aid kits in the school building which are available for back-up. Staff are keen to ensure that children benefit from being cared for in a healthy environment. Children participate in activities which reinforce the being healthy message. They are given labels if they are involved in a minor accident, such as a bump on the head, to inform their parents. In addition an accident record is well completed and parents are given a copy. Parents also sign consent sheets for the use of sunscreen.

Children learn about healthy eating and benefit from having nutritious snacks including fresh fruit as well as biscuits, breadsticks or raw carrots. They participate in activities which help them to appreciate which foods are good for them and eye catching healthy eating posters are displayed around the playroom which reinforce the message. Children learn to respect the policy that biscuits must not be put back if they have handled them. Regular drinks are provided with snacks and children are confident about helping themselves to additional drinks from jugs of juice and water which are available in the playroom. Jugs are also taken outside when children are playing out in hot weather. In addition there are water fountains in the school where children may help themselves. Some children bring packed teas from home if staying later. Staff ensure that any special dietary needs are met and work closely with parents to obtain information about their children to make sure that the children's dietary requirements are met. The school has accreditation as a healthy school and the out of school approach is in line with this.

Children have many opportunities to enjoy fresh air in the spacious school grounds. There is an exciting activity play area with robust play equipment. Children confidently use a wide range of large and small playthings which include footballs, hoops and ropes to help promote their coordination and dexterity. They are also able to develop their physical and emotional well-being through a good range of stimulating experiences within the setting. For example, karaoke and dancing. They take part in fun activities which exercise their bodies as well as develop their thinking skills, for example, they participate in brain gym exercises to help with small motor movements. Additionally, children are able to develop their emotional well-being as they build

relationships and socialise with other children and adults, sometimes just sitting in the sun and looking at photographs with staff.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The playrooms are very welcoming and well set out for children to use safely. Children benefit from being able to access the designated childcare areas with close, age appropriate supervision and support from the staff. Children learn about keeping safe from injury as staff remind them about taking care when using equipment. They also learn about being safe in the community and road safety as the school is located beside a busy road.

Staff ensure the premises are safe and secure so that children are well protected. Many safety measures have been taken, for example, socket covers are in place and staff carry a mobile phone at all times when they are supervising children in the school grounds. Children are protected as staff take effective measures to ensure that they do not gain access to any potentially hazardous areas or materials. Formal daily risk assessments are undertaken in the setting utilising indoor and outdoor tick lists to make sure the premises and resources are kept really safe. Staff are vigilant and take effective measures so that play resources, equipment and furniture are maintained in a safe and clean condition; all items are checked regularly. Staff also ensure that the toys and activities are appropriate for the age and stage of development of each child to use safely. All fire safety equipment and extinguishers are correctly secured in place and regular fire drills are held and recorded.

Children's welfare is promoted through policies and procedures being kept in relation to child safety in the setting. Recording systems are used in conjunction with written parental consents to ensure consistency of care for each child. Staff continue to develop their awareness of child safety. There is a child protection policy in place and staff have completed relevant training. Although staff have had no concerns to date in relation to the children, they have a clear understanding of what to be aware of, who to contact and what to record in the event of any future concerns; therefore, children are well protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children build very positive relationships with their peers, with the staff members and thoroughly enjoy attending the group. They settle well and enjoy participating in the many exciting activities and projects which are educational as well as being fun. They are comfortable in the setting and respond well to the staff's sensitive and calm approach. All children are shown respect by the staff, who help them to develop their confidence and sense of self. As all children have differing needs, staff ensure that they have sufficient challenge as they participate fully in the planned and incidental activities and projects.

Children progress well as they develop their natural curiosity in a safe and secure environment. They have many opportunities to learn new things as well as develop their existing skills and consolidate what has been learned already. Children enhance their sense of growing

independence as the staff members enable them to explore and investigate in many stimulating ways. Activities are organised to allow for flexibility and spontaneity which allows the children to choose what they want to do as well as contribute their own ideas. The activities are monitored and reviewed so that staff can plan and maintain maximum interest.

Children use the playrooms and school grounds confidently developing their skills in games of pretend, craft projects or sports activities as they interact with others in the setting. They enjoy participating in a varied range of group and individual activities. Children may play scrabble, draughts and monopoly or just relax with their friends. Children enthusiastically use large and small equipment and a variety of materials very well to create lots of exciting pictures and models, for example, when drawing with felt tip pens to create lovely patterns. They demonstrate their skills by organising miniature cities, constructing complex marble maze structures and using folded paper for a fortune telling game.

Children gain confidence in their abilities as they interact with their peers and with staff. They are able to participate in many new and exciting experiences and are encouraged to take an active role in the group. Staff are skilled at using clear and simple language and guidance which enables the children to learn and develop well. Children benefit from the positive community spirit in the setting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the staff's positive attitude towards equal opportunities and respecting individual and differing needs. There is a strong sense of community in the setting. Children have many good opportunities to develop their appreciation of the wider world from being made more aware of their local environment and contrasting this with other cultures. Children have participated in festivals and celebrations such as Christmas and Easter. They also experience other festivals from around the world, for example they used tea lights and glass painting in connection with the Diwali celebration. During cookery they made pizzas to reflect Italian cuisine and tried French bread and cheese with apple juice instead of wine.

All children are valued and staff work closely with parents to ensure that they obtain the necessary care and learning opportunities to gain maximum enjoyment and stimulation in the setting. Children learn about sharing and valuing others from the very good role models provided by the staff who gently and sensitively support, praise and encourage the children to help them to develop their self-esteem and sense of belonging. Children are courteous and well behaved. Children are very happy and relaxed in the group and they are really keen to take part in activities. They are able to make informed choices in their play and daily routines demonstrating increasing confidence as they select playthings and participate in activities. Staff are adept at encouraging children to share their opinions and take an active role in the group.

There is a really positive partnership with parents and carers which significantly contributes to the quality of care provided for their children. Staff have a sound knowledge of the children and the wishes of the parents to ensure there is consistency and continuity so that each child can participate and progress effectively. Parents are able to contribute fully in the exchange of information necessary for their child's care. They are kept informed about daily issues and

have commented positively on the service provided. An attractive and informative booklet has been prepared which highlights policies and provides other useful statements about the service provided. Noticeboards are used effectively to display information, such as Ofsted reports and also a comments book and pen for parents to use. There are regular newsletters, verbal updates are given at each session to ensure parents have a clear understanding of the service provided for their children and each parent is given a card with the Flamingo Club contact details. In addition, parents gain a further insight into their child's progress as they take much of their art and craft projects home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The staff team are professional, caring and dedicated in their approach to the well-being of the children and they are supported by the playgroup committee. This is reflected in the well-organised childcare areas in the setting, in safety measures taken and in the range of good quality resources and equipment used. Clearly defined, sensitive daily routines enable children to settle well and feel secure. There are meetings to ensure staff and committee members are kept fully informed.

Comprehensive files, noticeboards and other means are available for staff and parents. A range of policies and procedures in relation to health, safety and welfare are used to inform practice and protect the children who attend. Detailed and effective recording systems include the required individual child records as well as those relating to the smooth management of the setting. Staff update and develop these for the benefit of children attending, their parents and staff. There are very effective systems in place for recording the attendance of children. However, the monitoring and recording of visitors to the setting is not effective.

Children benefit from the good quality care provided and from the staff's positive attitude towards their own training and personal development. Various staff have completed a range of relevant courses and continue to assess and enhance their existing good practice.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were three recommendations made at the last inspection in relation to developing the fire drill record, having a formal risk assessment system in place and ensuring there is adequate lighting outside the entrance.

The recommendations have been addressed well as there is now a comments section in the fire drill book, a formal risk assessment check list is completed at each session and a light has been fitted to the entrance to ensure the safety of the children attending.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 the parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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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 system for monitoring and recording visitors to the group is clear and effective.

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