



Penrith Out of School Club Limited

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY297365
Inspection date	14 June 2006
Inspector	Karen Ling
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Registered person	Penrith Out of School Club Limited
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?

Penrith Out of School Club Limited is run by a group of directors. It has been registered since November 2004. It is situated within the grounds of Beaconside Junior School in Penrith. It operates from a single pre-fabricated building which incorporates a playroom, quiet room, kitchen and toilet facilities. The group has access to the school's playground and playing field. The group is registered to take a maximum of 32 children between three and eight years of age. There are currently approximately 200 children on register. The provision operates Monday to Friday from 15.15 until 18.00 during term time. It also operates during school holidays Monday to Friday from 08.30 until 17.30.

Children from five local schools attend the provision. They are collected and transported to the provision by staff who use their own cars. The group supports children with learning difficulties and English as an additional language.

There are eight part-time staff and the manager who work directly with the children. Of these seven hold appropriate childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and well being is satisfactorily promoted during their time at the club. They enjoy regular exercise with friends and staff. Staff plan and set up a range of outdoor games each session during term-time. A wide range of activities are planned for holiday schemes. After a healthy snack of fruit or yoghurt and a drink of juice children eagerly take themselves outside to play. They engage in games, such as, football, skipping and badminton and staff join in games with children. They play well together as they discuss what to play next and decide whose turn it is.

Throughout the session children are offered or help themselves to juice and fresh drinking water. During the holidays when children attend all day, they bring a packed lunch from home. This is stored within the playroom.

Children have a growing awareness of how to keep themselves healthy. For example, they are aware of the need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and use individual paper towels. Policies addressing procedures to follow if children are unwell help to prevent cross infection. All staff hold a current first aid certificate and accurately complete documentation which relates to accidents and the administration of medicine.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident within the setting because staff have formed good relationships with them. They are able to safely access a good range and variety of activities which meet the needs of the full age range catered for. Resources and equipment are well maintained and meet safety standards. Furniture within the environment is thoughtfully set out to ensure children can take part in different types of activity. This means that children use space well, have sufficient space and move about with ease. Some children happily select craft or table top activities while others choose to relax on the sofas in the quiet room and watch television. Children's work and pictures decorate the walls which helps to make the playroom colourful and inviting. Children clearly enjoy the outdoor play opportunities. They use the large enclosed field and the hard surfaced playground area well for energetic games and role play games. Staff monitor children's safety well and ensure that children know the boundaries.

Risk assessments are carried out on a daily basis to ensure the areas to be used by

children and staff do not present potential hazards. Children are familiar with the procedures to follow for emergency evacuation from the building because they practise it from time to time. Children's safety is given detailed attention on organised excursions during holiday play schemes. Staff ensure the visit is well planned, carry out necessary risk assessments and maintain a satisfactory adult to child ratio. Staff use their own transport to collect children from the neighbouring schools and bring them to the club. Although the necessary documentation is requested some information is missing and some documents have expired. Consequently documentation does not always show that vehicles used for transporting children are safe.

Systems for monitoring access to and from the premises are generally satisfactory. However, systems do not consistently prevent unauthorised access or ensure that children cannot leave the premises unsupervised. This is because staff are not sufficiently rigorous in ensuring the entrance is kept locked or that details of visitors to the premises are recorded. Most staff have a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the procedures to follow where there are concerns about child abuse. This means they are able to take appropriate steps to protect children and promote their well-being. However, not enough is done to ensure new staff are fully informed during their induction. The written statement is detailed but does not include procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enter the provision excitedly after school. As they enjoy a snack they discuss with friends and staff which activities are on offer and what they would like to do. Staff know children well and activities are carefully selected and set out to attract and stimulate children's imagination and interests. They are able to make choices throughout the session and confidently move from one activity to another. Craft activities are popular. For example, they make individually designed masks with varying degrees of support and input from staff and then have fun using the masks as props in their games.

Some children choose to play outside with older children helping to set up the equipment, such as the badminton net. Children are fully engrossed in their games and have formed good relationships with peers from neighbouring schools. Staff play alongside children and help to keep them motivated. As a result children play contentedly during the session. Some children particularly enjoy role play and use the outside area well to make a shop or a home area. Children are able to choose quiet activities if they prefer. They respect the rules of the quiet room and relax with friends or on their own to read or watch television.

The holiday play schemes provide variety to meet the needs of children of different ages. Staff have daily plans of activities and provide a variety of excursions to local attractions. At all times staff aim to promote a wide choice so that children are happy in what they are doing during their time at the provision.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children arrive confidently, happily chatting to each other and staff. They decide what they would like from the choice of snacks set out on their arrival and take a few minutes to eat before launching into the range of activities. Children are settled and content at the provision because staff are kind, patient and engage well with children. They aim to follow children's interests and gently remind them of rules, explain and share information with them. Children's self-esteem and confidence is encouraged well because staff value their skills, contributions and praise them for their efforts. For example, children are actively involved in supporting activities. Older children are able to set up computer programmes so that younger children can use them. New starters are allocated an older 'friend' who can show them where resources are, the boundaries and help them to settle in.

Children with learning difficulties and English as an additional language are fully included. Staff ensure they have the necessary information needed about each child so that activities can be adapted if necessary and they work well with support staff. Children know the rules and when challenged by staff show a clear knowledge of them, for example, when they are allowed to go outside. Children are well behaved. They have formed friendship groups and generally play together harmoniously.

There is a good rapport with parents. Prospective parents receive satisfactory written information about the provision. The daily informal verbal exchange helps to keep parents informed about their child. Staff aim to maintain confidentiality. Though there is a detailed complaints procedure it does not contain all the necessary information required following the revisions to the National Standards in October 2005.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the clear organisation of the provision. Staff know their roles and responsibilities and work together well as a team. This is seen to be particularly effective at the end of the school day when staff are responsible for the collection of children from neighbouring schools. Clear systems are in place to monitor which children should be attending each session. If a child is not present for collection, staff are able to put procedures into practice. Children's attendance is recorded accurately on daily registers. In the main, information shows which staff are present each session with the children.

Children enjoy a variety of activities because staff regularly meet to plan. Space is organised effectively so that a range of quiet, active, table top and rigorous activities can be set out for children to enjoy. This means that the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. There is an open and friendly approach within the group and children are free to approach any member of staff. However, the lack of a key person system means that there is no one person mainly responsible for a child's well-being on a daily basis. Consequently there is no robust system which ensures that information about the child is exchanged with the parent.

The policies and procedures and necessary documentation are organised effectively and underpin the satisfactory provision. Policies and procedures have yet to be reviewed in light of the revisions to the National Standards 2005 to ensure they meet amended criteria.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- review the child protection procedures so that they include procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer; ensure all staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of the child protection procedures
- ensure the system for managing access to and from the premises is effective and keep a record of visitors
- keep records about vehicles in which children are transported, including insurance details, up to date
- obtain a copy of the revision to the National Standards 2005 and review policies in light of these revisions, for example the complaints procedure
- ensure there is an effective key person system in place.

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