



Rickleton Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	318605
Inspection date	30 August 2006
Inspector	Noreen Elizabeth Appleby
Setting Address	Vigo Lane, Rickleton, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE38 9EZ
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Registered person	Patricia Ann Vinther
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 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?

Rickleton Kids Club is one of three facilities run by a private provider. It opened in 1998 and operates from rooms within the community wing of Rickleton Primary School, Washington. A maximum of 32 children may attend the setting at any one time. The group is open each weekday, from 08.00 to 09.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00, during school term-time and from 08.00 to 18.00, during school holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 65 children on roll. The group mainly serves the needs of the

local community, although some children come from a wider geographical area. Children generally attend a variety of sessions to suit parents' working patterns.

The group employs four members of staff to work with children, as well as the registered provider. Of these, the registered provider holds an appropriate Level 3 qualification. Two staff hold Level 2 qualifications in childcare and one member of staff is working towards an appropriate Level 3 qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean environment, thereby contributing towards their health. Premises are adequately maintained through the school. Staff accept responsibility for day-to-day cleanliness and for keeping equipment clean. Children are learning the importance of good personal hygiene routines, for example, as they wash their hands after toileting, or before meals and snacks. However, their health is presently compromised because hand-drying arrangements pose a potential risk of cross-contamination. Suitable medication and sickness policies are appropriately implemented in the setting. There are sound arrangements for excluding sick or infectious children and for attending to the needs of children who become ill. Appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure there is a qualified first aider on duty at all times, although relevant certificates are not readily available in the setting. Children's accidents are appropriately recorded. Suitable medication records are maintained, although staff do not obtain prior parental consent.

Children have good opportunities to enjoy physical play activities that help them to develop new skills and contribute towards keeping them healthy. They enjoy a variety of outdoor team games, such as football and tennis and they have regular walks in the nearby woods, as well as occasional outings. Indoors, they have good opportunities for activities that are quiet and restful. Some enjoy sitting on floor cushions, talking together and planning games. Others enjoy quiet table-top activities, such as art and crafts or playing with small world resources.

Children have good opportunities for regular drinks and they receive a broad range of healthy foodstuffs, suited to their individual dietary needs. For example, staff provide a choice of cereal or toast for breakfast and a range of healthy sandwiches and fruit for tea. Well-planned activities also raise children's awareness about making healthy choices. They have good opportunities to help at meal times, as they take orders for the tea list, set the tables or help with the washing up. During school holiday periods children bring packed lunches. They are learning the importance of suitable food storage, as they use cool-bags or ensure perishable foodstuffs are appropriately refrigerated. They sit together for meals and are learning good table manners and social skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are appropriately cared for in a suitable, spacious environment. Play areas are welcoming and bright. Children's work is effectively displayed, thereby giving them pride in their achievements. Children benefit from a good range of equipment and resources that are suitably maintained in a clean, safe condition. Accessible storage arrangements allow children to explore with interest, develop their independence and make choices about what they wish to play with. Comfortable floor cushions are available for children to rest and relax together.

Staff have identified potential safety hazards and they take appropriate steps to minimise risks to children. For example, they use a safety checklist each day to ensure that fire exits are clear, electrical cables are stored safely and toilet areas are clean and dry. Children are learning suitable road safety routines when on walks or outings. They are also learning about fire safety, by practising emergency drills on a regular basis.

Children's well-being is satisfactorily considered in matters of child protection. A formal policy statement has been drafted, although it does not clearly identify the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against staff. No formal child protection training has been undertaken, as staff have been unable to secure places on relevant courses. However, some have covered issues as part of their college courses and demonstrate a sound understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures. Children's existing injuries are not presently recorded. The registered provider has identified child protection as an area for staff development, in order to ensure children's welfare is suitably protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

All children demonstrate a good sense of routine. They know what is expected of them and they are respectful towards staff. Most play nicely together and they encourage and praise each other, for example, as they take part in computer games. Staff allow the children to initiate their own play and to develop at their own pace. Children are adequately supported, although this is sometimes hampered because of poor staffing ratios. Most children are happy and settled within the group. They move around confidently and demonstrate good levels of independence. They are forming good relationships with adults and peers.

Children enjoy a good range of resources and activities that provide interest and support their individual needs well. Staff plan a broad variety of activities prior to each holiday play-scheme. Children are developing effective imaginative skills, as they use small world resources, dressing-up equipment, or enjoy playing pirates. They are gaining physical competence through taking part in outdoor activities and team games. They are developing creativity through various art and craft activities that are available to them. Older children enjoy performing plays or making up dances for younger ones, as well as organising treasure hunts for other children. They demonstrate pride in their achievements. For example, they talk proudly about collage flags they have made and a frieze they are creating, as a result of a recent

outing to Alnwick castle.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are sufficiently valued as individuals and treated with equal respect and consideration. Their individual needs, including any special needs, are appropriately discussed with parents and suitably met. Staff are aware of gender issues and promote 'free choice' within the group. Children enjoy sound opportunities to learn about differing abilities, other cultures, religions and the wider world. For example, they access a suitable range of activities and resources, as well as taking part in physical fundraising activities and donating the proceeds to a registered charity. They have good opportunities to contribute towards the group. They make independent choices about activities they would like to do and the older children enjoy initiating activities for others. Staff make suitable opportunities to talk to children and seek their thoughts and ideas about the group.

Children behave well because staff set realistic expectations and promote children to accept responsibility for their own actions. Positive behaviour management strategies are well used and children respond enthusiastically to the purposeful praise they receive. Appropriate boundaries are sensitively reinforced when required. Children also have good opportunities to discuss and agree rules that they feel are fair within the group. They have drawn up a list, which is suitably displayed in the setting. Through discussion with children, it is evident that they enjoy attending the group.

Sound information sharing systems are maintained with parents and carers, in order to support children's care arrangements and routines. Appropriate contracts are suitably maintained, in line with the requirements of the National Standards and written agreements have been drafted. Most formal consents are in place, although staff do not presently obtain prior consent before administering medication to children. There are suitable arrangements in place to record complaints. An information leaflet and written policy statements adequately inform parents and carers about services and procedures within the group, although some information is not up-to-date. Staff also use verbal updates to keep parents suitably informed about their child's care and progress.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Space and resources are suitably organised, enhancing play opportunities for children and contributing towards them being happy and settled. They are able to move around confidently and independently within the setting. They initiate their own play well; some choosing to play independently, whilst others take part in group play or pre-planned activities.

Children generally receive sufficient support. However, required staffing ratios are not correctly maintained and there is not a suitably qualified and experienced person in

charge present at all times. This means regulatory requirements are not met and children's welfare is compromised. Children's records and other associated documentation are satisfactorily maintained in line with the requirements of the National Standards. Some staffing information is available and some written policies are in place. However, present systems do not ensure information is fully up-to-date or verify that staff are suitably vetted, or sufficiently qualified and experienced for their roles.

Overall the provision does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the registered provider agreed to inform Ofsted of all staff changes within the group, to ensure staff files contain necessary details and to update child protection training, so all staff have sufficient knowledge in this area.

The registered provider discussed proposed staff changes with Ofsted, but employed a manager who is not suitably qualified. Staff files have not been set up, although a record of their personal details is maintained. No formal child protection training has been completed, although some staff have covered child protection as part of their college courses. Overall, limited progress has been made in improving outcomes for children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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

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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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure the manager has at least a Level 3 qualification, appropriate to the post
- ensure that at least minimum staffing ratios are maintained at all times.

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 *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk