



Kenton Out Of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 319216

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Inspector Julie Larner

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Registered person Newcastle Play and Youth Service

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?

Kenton Out of School Care opened in 1990 and is one of many out of school clubs in the borough run by Newcastle City Council. The group operates from the school hall of St. Cuthberts Roman Catholic School in Kenton, Newcastle Upon Tyne. The group has access to a kitchen, toilets and two large playgrounds. The children attending come from a variety of local schools which reflect the local community.

The Out of School Club is registered to provide 32 places for children aged from three to under eight years. There are currently 40 children on roll attending a variety of sessions each week. The out of school club supports children with special

educational needs.

The group is open Monday to Friday from 15.00 to 18.00 during school term times and during school holidays from 08.30 to 18.00 during school holidays. The group is closed for two weeks at Christmas.

The out of school club employs three members of staff. All of these staff hold an appropriate child care qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are involved in a wide range of informative and interesting activities to promote healthy eating. Displays of their work shows they have considered food which are, good, bad and can be eaten in moderation as they create posters by sticking picture of foods on them. They enjoy making smoothies from their own recipes, they give these ratings out of ten, comment on how nice they were and have produced a booklet about them. Children are beginning to learn about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle as staff provide a well organised range of stimulating and exciting activities that appeal to children.

Children are cared for in a clean and warm environment due to clear procedures and staff's daily routines. There are lists for cleaning equipment that should be used in different areas and staff wipe down tables before children have snacks. Staff care for children in a manner that protects them from cross-infection as they show good awareness of what to do if children are ill. As policies, procedures and training are well known by the staff, safety around administering medication is comprehensive and very thorough.

Children have good opportunities to enjoy physical exercise. Staff keep them motivated in this type of play by joining in races with children which both staff and children enjoy immensely, children relish the opportunity to beat the staff and laugh and joke about this. Children challenge themselves physically in outdoor play by using climbing frames and monkey bars to see who can climb the furthest.

Snack time is a social occasion where children enjoy conversations with each other and visitors. They benefit from healthy snacks, such as crackers and water. Whilst children can help themselves to water outside when they are involved in physical activities, staff serve the children food which means that their independence is not sufficiently encouraged at snack time.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move the around the environment freely and safely due to good procedures that are in place and clearly understood by all staff. During outdoor play staff have

clear procedures they follow whilst some parents are still in the school yard. They allow children to play in the smaller yard and once parents have left the school, gates are checked to ensure they are secure and children use the whole of the school yard. Precise procedures for outings and fire drills contribute to children's safety as the staff display a very competent understanding of these. For example, staff carry out fire drills when new children start to attend the group to ensure they are familiar with these. If fire drills take longer than usual or there are problems then these are carried out with more regularity to ensure children can evacuate safely. Regular risk assessments are carried out by trained staff to ensure these are successful.

Children are learning about safety as they are involved in stimulating and informative activities. Good displays around the group show the work that children have produced around keeping themselves safe and the emergency services. For example, children know which number to ring for the fire brigade and if they are lost that they could talk to a policeman. Children have thought about the dangers of fireworks and things around the home as they produce posters and colour in pictures whilst talking about these. Around the setting children are encouraged by staff, through reminders, to think about their own safety, such as being careful on the climbing frame. Due to good supervision staff ensure the safety of all children as they regularly check children who are playing beside the door which is not easily visible from the yard area.

Children play with a wide range of equipment, most of which is maintained to an adequate standard. Children are consulted about what they wish to play with and are interested and thoroughly enjoy their play. Staff bring different equipment for children at their request, for example, pens and paper are brought outside for those who wish to play quietly rather than participate in physical games. Importantly, staff take advantage of the children's interests, for example, written plans clearly show that due to the good weather, outdoor play is the focus for the week. During the sessions children confidently choose what they wish to do as they all vote to play dodge ball in the hall after snack.

Children's welfare is safeguarded in relation to child protection due to clear procedures which are understood well by staff. Staff complete additional training on child protection to ensure they are up-to-date with current practise. The training they receive is appropriate to their roles and responsibilities, for example, the person in charge completes a more in-depth course relating to this.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have good relationships with staff. They approach them confidently due to the secure relationship they share, for example, staff comfort children when they are upset. Children confidently express themselves around their own needs as they ask staff for their sun cream.

Conversations between staff and children flow freely as staff take an interest in the children they care for, they ask questions about their home life and what they have done during the day. Children feel secure in the group and are able to request staff

support to sort out any problems. For example, they approach staff when they feel upset about not having a turn at dodge ball, staff are happy to rectify this in a sensitive way by telling children that it is their turn next. Children have developed good relationships with other children. They play happily together and say they enjoy their time at the group as they like to come to 'chat'.

Children play well together in teams. They understand and follow rules well when they play dodge ball and enjoy staff being involved in their play immensely as they laugh and try to trick each other so they can score points.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have good opportunities to learn about diversity. They participate in a range of well planned activities to celebrate different cultures and gain an understanding of these. For example they try different foods, play games from different countries and learn how to say hello and goodbye in different languages. Equal opportunities are promoted very well in the group due to staff having a sound understanding and innovative ways in which to challenge discrimination. For example, when some boys state that dancing is for girls this was challenged well by staff in an appropriate manner and ended in boys learning line dancing steps and putting on a show for the group.

All children are included and respected. Staff are observant in the group and talk to children about what they want to do to help them participate in activities if they are sitting by themselves. Children's individual needs are met well due to staff gaining comprehensive information about these. They talk to children in the group about differing needs to help them learn about being tolerant of each others differences. Partnerships with parents are good. A comprehensive range of clearly displayed information helps to keep parents informed about what is going on in the group. Parents are complimentary about the care their children receive and open relationships that have developed ensure that parents feel able to approach the staff with any concerns they have.

Children behave well. They understand the effect their actions have on others as they readily apologise, for example, if they hit other children with the ball by accident. Children take turns successfully as they pick their teams for dodge ball. They show care and concern for others by comforting other children when they are upset. Some older children are particularly considerate of the younger ones, for example, they pass the ball to a younger child during a game and encourage them to, 'have a turn this time'.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff deploy themselves effectively to ensure that children's time in the group is interesting, worthwhile and happy. They are keen to join in with the children's play

and support them well by offering suggestions to keep them motivated, for example, by suggesting relay races outdoors. Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where they feel comfortable. This is due to the staff team being fully aware of their roles and responsibilities and having a good understanding of the settings policies and procedures. The staff communicate effectively with each other to ensure children are safe, for example, they tell each other which areas they are supervising and when they are going out of the main areas.

Ongoing training and the staff's eager commitment to developing themselves with further training benefits the care of the children, as they are cared for by knowledgeable and experienced staff. Staff's use of time and resources ensures that children feel secure. Flexible plans allow children's interests and spontaneous activities to feature highly in the setting, for example, staff are quick to take advantage of the nice weather and focus on outdoor activities that children enjoy.

Documentation is effectively organised and maintained to ensure confidentiality. Whilst the relevant policies and procedures are in place, the group need to ensure that recording of complaints is in line with recent guidance to the national standards and all staff are fully informed of this.

Overall, the setting meets the needs of the children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the group agreed to, develop a key worker system, ensure the child protection statement took account of current guidance, provide a range of materials and equipment that are attractively presented, stimulating and meets the needs of all ages cared for, develop rigorous procedures for monitoring children's safety outdoors, include the regulators address in the complaints procedure and improve the organisation of documentation.

The manager of the setting did implement a key worker system after the previous inspection which she felt was not effective as all staff work with all of the children in the setting. Through discussion it was agreed that the key worker system needs to work effectively for the group and could focus on the sharing of information with parents and settling new children in the group. The child protection statement has been updated to take account of current guidance. There are rigorous procedures for monitoring children's safety outdoors which are implemented successfully by staff and documentation is effectively organised.

On the day of the inspection, materials and equipment were not seen in their entirety due to staff focusing on children's interests and the majority of the session consisting of outdoor play. The staff team explained that normally they would have a balanced range of areas with different equipment, such as role play, construction, art and craft, that would meet the needs of the children they cared for. Written plans in place showed this to be the case and several displays around the setting suggest this is usual practise to ensure that equipment is appropriate for the needs of the children attending.

Inclusion of the regulators address in the complaints procedures has not been implemented. Due to the group being run by Newcastle City Council the council have a standard complaints procedure that covers all of their services. The group need to devise a system which highlights to parents that they can complain to Ofsted and make details of this available to them alongside the corporate procedure that is in place.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report since the previous 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.

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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):

- promote children's independence at snack times, for example, by providing opportunities for them to serve themselves
- ensure that the recording of complaints is in line with revised guidance detailed in, 'Day care and childminding: guidance to the National Standards - revisions to certain criteria October 2005'.

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