



Newby Fun Factory

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	400240
Inspection date	18 August 2006
Inspector	Elizabeth Patricia Edmond
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Registered person	Voluntary Management Committee
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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Newby Fun Factory out of school club has been registered since 1995. It operates from Newby County Primary School premises. The club uses the designated classroom, adjacent corridor and associated indoor facilities and outdoor access.

During term time, mainly children who are registered at the school attend before and after school time; during the holidays the children come from a wider area. The club opens in term time Monday to Friday 08.00 to 08.45 and 15.15 to 18.00. In the holidays, it is open Monday to Friday 08.00 until 18.00. The group cares for children from age four to 12 years. There are currently 70 children on roll; many attend only

occasionally.

The group is managed by a voluntary body of directors. They employ five staff who have a range of appropriate qualifications and experience. The group is a member of the '4 Children' organisation.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a warm, clean environment where they learn about sensible hygiene procedures. Staff make sure that the children know why they have to wash their hands ready for snack or lunch and they remind the children if they forget. The facilities are, on the whole, very good, but the soap is sometimes not very appealing.

The staff encourage the children to have extra portions of fresh fruit, in order to finish it all off before the weekend, and the children help themselves freely. They have a good understanding about healthy eating; they talk about the healthy snacks that they have normally and they say that they occasionally have a biscuits as a treat or sweets when it is someone's birthday. Despite the challenges in the layout of the premises, the group carefully follow environmental health advice on food preparation. This further promotes the children's health.

The children greatly enjoy physical play in the outdoor areas; they list their favourite sports as football, cricket or rounders and some make good use of the indoor space to carefully practise their skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are able to play freely because the adults are vigilant in minimising risks and they encourage the children to take a sensible degree of responsibility for their own safety. Consequently, the children show a high level of understanding about safety and they advise each other as they play indoors. Although the adults respect and acknowledge the dangers in the outdoor environment, they continue to provide excellent play opportunities and outings. The children are confident about how to behave when they are on any outings and they are very aware of dangers when they visit the forest; they talk openly and sensibly about how they keep themselves safe.

The premises are well maintained. The group continue to assess safety needs and are vigilant in seeking outside help during the school holidays. The broad range of resources is in good condition which means the children can choose freely from what is available.

The children are well protected because the staff continue to update their child protection training and have all the necessary guidance on file for advice. The group

have also been very proactive in seeking new information when local agencies for protecting children have changed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children develop warm and trusting relationships, they are very familiar in their approach to the staff and each other. The children generally enjoy their time there and take part enthusiastically in all the activities. Some children say that they get a bit bored when they are there every day for the long summer holiday, especially when it is very wet outdoors because they prefer to play outdoors. The staff work hard to counter this by suggesting extra activities and resources; the children have great fun with the dressing up clothes or they watch a video as they have their snack.

All the children agree that the weekly outings during the summer holidays are a favourite activity. They become quite animated as they describe recent outings to Dalby Forest or the cinema. They laugh as they talk about how cold the stream was and the slippery clay bank, and they boast that the film at the cinema was not really scary.

There is a good range of table top games and the children get very involved with games such as 'monopoly' or 'guess who.' Although the emphasis is very much on leisure and social activities, the children have good opportunities to consolidate their learning in other areas. The staff have high expectations of what the children can achieve and they set them appropriate challenges. They encourage them to draw their own cartoon characters and suggest ways of improving their results. The staff also provide opportunities them to use their mathematical skills in fun ways; the children measure how much they have grown and compare the differences once they are in the high heels. The children enjoy a broad range of art and craft activities and choose freely from the range of materials and resources. The staff celebrate the children's artwork by displaying this attractively.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children are truly valued and respected as individuals because the staff get to know them very well and they appreciate the children's personalities and dispositions. Children with specific medical needs are sensitively included all in the activities. Staff have undertaken additional training to ensure that their medical needs can be met.

The children are relaxed, confident and behave very well. They develop positive relationships with the staff and each other. The staff create a pleasant, cheerful atmosphere for the children by being very good role models for behaviour and being genuinely attentive to the children. The staff help the children to think about their behaviour and they take turns at the games console with the minimum of adult support.

The staff work well with parents. They discuss the day's events with parents every day as they collect their children, and important information about accidents or incidents is always in writing. Liaison about children's individual needs is particularly detailed. Parents have access to a comprehensive range of policies. However, the complaints policy does not inform parents about the group's responsibility to keep an accessible record of complaints. Parents are pleased with the standard of care provided and confirm that their children enjoy attending.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children benefit from key staff's approach to overall development. The manager is proactive in seeking out guidance from the local authority and other agencies, and all staff continue to update their skills and qualifications. This improves the outcomes for children in several areas.

The manager is particularly confident in her role and is well organised in all aspects of the day to day running of the club. For example, she ensures that the clear activity plans and associated resources are easily available, makes effective contingency plans for when staff are absent and is vigilant in minimising risks on outings. This means that the children are very well supported.

All the required documentation is in place and the manager is beginning to organise this in a more accessible way. Children's details are well organised and securely stored and the necessary records are clear and shared with parents. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the group were asked to develop working relationships with parents by improving the level of shared information. The parents now have access to all relevant contact details for the regulator, should they wish to comment about the care provided. Information for parents is clear about the procedures to be followed if parents fail to collect a child and the group now have parents' written permission for administering medication to the children, and signed acknowledgements of medication and accident records.

The staff were asked to improve the children's safety by conducting a risk assessment. This documentation is now clear and links with the group's insurance policy. The group also have sensible links with the school's health and safety representative for this. The policy is shared with staff at induction, which further promotes the children's safety.

A further area for development was identified as being equality of opportunity. The group now have a comprehensive policy which is shared at induction and reviewed at appraisal with all staff. The children also have access to resources and activities which promote this aspect of their development. This helps the children to appreciate and enjoy the diverse nature of our culture.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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 good. 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 that fresh soap is always available in the toilet area
- ensure that complaints policy reflects changes to the National Standards regarding the recording of complaints.

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