



Hareside Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401659
Inspection date	24 August 2006
Inspector	Andrea, Jane Lockyer
Setting Address	Hareside County First School, Hareside, Whitelea Glade, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 6BL
Telephone number	07899 727746
E-mail	
Registered person	Little Angels Fun Club and Nursery Ltd.
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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?

Hareside Out of School Club has been registered since July 2001 and is run by Little Angels Fun Club and Nursery Ltd. It is located in a separate, self contained building within the grounds of Hareside County First School, Cramlington, Northumberland. Local amenities and public transport systems are within walking distance. The whole of the building is on ground level and children access all areas within the building. There a safe and enclosed playground and the school field available for outdoor play. The provision is open Monday to Friday throughout the year and provides after school, wrap around and holiday care, for children aged from three years to 13 years. Children who attend the provision are from Hareside County First School and the

surrounding community.

There are currently 99 children on roll, most of whom attend on a part-time basis. The provision supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

They are three core staff who work directly with the children, all of whom have a recognised childcare qualification to NVQ level 3. At least 50% of all other staff hold a recognised childcare qualification to NVQ level 2 or 3.

The provision receives support and training opportunities from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, and they are also members of the National Day Nurseries Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment, where they are developing good awareness of the importance of hygiene and personal care. They independently manage their own personal health care and hygiene very well for example, as they wash their hands after visiting the toilet, before handling food and after art and craft activities, apply their own sun cream, take a rest and a drink after physical activity and use tissues and wipes routinely. Children are actively encouraged to help maintain good hygiene throughout the premises. For example, they help to wash and dry dishes, clean tables before meals and after art and craft activities and help to sweep up. Well-planned topics and discussions, such as 'Healthy Lifestyle', 'Oral Hygiene' and 'Safety in the Sun' increase children's awareness of how to maintain their own health needs. Children are protected from the risks of cross-infection and illness by the good health and hygiene practises implemented by staff. Good communication with parents and records ensure children's individual health needs are met however, medication records do not maintain confidentiality.

Children are developing a good awareness of the benefits of a healthy diet. They are able to make choices from the well balanced, nutritious, healthy meals and snacks provided, and access a selection of fresh fruit and healthy drinks throughout the day. Children are encouraged to help prepare snacks and meals and have enjoyed learning about nutrition and diet through well planned topics. Menus are planned exceptionally well by staff who have a clear understanding of the importance of good nutrition and diet to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

In depth discussions with parents and comprehensive records, ensure that children's dietary needs, including special requirements are extremely well catered for.

Regular daily opportunities for physical play indoors and outdoors, help children to enjoy exercise and develop new skills and healthy bodies. They take part in a wide range of fun activities such as treasure hunts, pirate games, obstacle courses, team games, skipping, hopscotch, dancing and playing in the snow. Children also benefit

from regular visits from staff from the local Leisure and Arts Centre who organise a variety of stimulating sports activities with the children. Well planned outings to local amenities and places of interest such as bowling, rock-pooling and nature parks, also encourage children to be active and to learn that physical exercise is fun.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a safe environment where the risks are identified and minimised. Safety procedures and risk assessments are effectively carried out by staff, within the provision and on outings. Which ensures that children are able to move around, freely, safely and independently. Staff give high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe, both in and out of the premises, and effectively achieve a good balance between freedom and setting safe limits. Children are developing a good awareness of danger and are becoming knowledgeable about how to protect themselves from harm. For example, they take part in fire drills, have developed safety rules for outdoor play, discuss with staff possible dangers arising from planned outings, such as road safety, using public transport, how to stay safe around animals and safety whilst rock-pooling. Visits from the local ambulance service, police and fire brigade have helped children to learn and understand about fire safety, basic first aid, the dangers of internet chat rooms and how to use the emergency services.

Children use a comprehensive range of safe, good quality, and developmentally appropriate toys and resources, which are stimulating and fun. They are organised well to encourage independent access and choice.

Effective policies and procedures implemented by staff ensure that children are well protected from possible abuse and neglect. All staff have a good understanding of the procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board guidelines and are aware of their roles and responsibilities. Children are developing an awareness of how to protect themselves through well planned sensitive activities, where they discuss feelings about touching and physical contact.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the Out of School Club. They enjoy affectionate, sensitive and caring relationships with staff who know them well and inspire them with their own enthusiasm, which means that children are developing high levels of self-esteem, confidence and trust. They engage eagerly in a wide range of stimulating and enjoyable activities, such as role playing as pirates looking for buried treasure, using a range of resources they had made, treasure maps, telescopes, a model boat, eye patches and pirate hats; taking part in music week, where there were various activities, such as making musical instruments, dancing, experiencing different types of music from 'classical' to 'pop' and teaching each other how to play musical instruments.

Activities and themes are planned in advance and well thought out, they are purposeful and provide all children with good levels of challenge, appropriate to their age and stage of development. This practice means that children are involved in a broad range of interesting experiences that promote and enhance their individual development and learning skills.

Children's choice and independence is promoted very well through a variety of opportunities. They are able to move around freely, choosing to play indoors or outdoors, take part in planned activities such as making 'cup cakes', or activities of their own choosing. For example, reading books, making pictures from a range of art and craft materials, using pictorial and written step by step guides and acting out their own experiences in the role play area. They select freely from very well organised resources, and are skilfully guided by staff to extend their own play and learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children access a good range of activities and resources which increase their awareness of diversity. For example, art and craft activity cards for making African masks and Chinese writing, books and educational magazines which explain about a wide variety of different countries, cultures and beliefs, dolls, puzzles, pictures and posters. Themed days and festivals, such as 'American Day', where children learnt about the American culture and made a model of the statue of liberty, celebrating Chinese New Year and Divali promote children's understanding of others and the wider world. Children are also involved in making links with children in Kenya and sponsoring a child in Thailand this personal involvement gives children a greater understanding of how people live in different parts of the world. Effective arrangements regarding inclusion ensure that children with learning difficulties are involved in all activities and outings and that their individual needs are met very well. Children have good opportunities to learn about their local community and environment through well planned outings to places of interest, such as the local coast and lighthouse, nature park, wildfowl park, museums and local steam railway.

Staff have realistic expectations of children's behaviour. They implement a range of good strategies to promote positive behaviour that help children to understand right from wrong. Children respond positively to meaningful praise and sensitive encouragement, which contributes to their social skills, confidence and self-esteem. They willingly help clean up, share activities and games, and help one another with activities and personal hygiene for example, older children happily help younger children to wash their hands and make bracelets. They show care and concern for each other and behave extremely well. Children are actively encouraged to share their views and opinions, make their own choices and take part in the day to day organisation of their club for example, they help to plan and evaluate activities, prepare snacks and meals, set the table, develop rules and boundaries for behaviour and outdoor play and take part in activities of their own choosing. Staff help children take responsibility for themselves and others; they promote a strong sense of self and belonging.

Children benefit from good relationships between staff and parents. Good verbal and written communication ensures that children's individual needs are met very well. Policies, procedures, newsletters, welcome pack and a notice-board ensure that parents are kept well-informed of all aspects of the childcare practice, and about the care, welfare and progress of their children. Parents are made welcome in the provision they have attended a breakfast morning with staff and children and staff are readily available to discuss any issues with parents throughout the day. Staff actively seek the views of parents and provide them with six monthly evaluation forms regarding their thoughts on the provision and the care of their children. Previous forms and thank you cards indicate that parents are very happy with the care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The exceptionally well-organised environment and good daily routines ensure that children are extremely happy and self-assured. Excellent opportunities are made for all children to be involved in free play, social interaction, eating, resting, physical activity and outings. This means that children are very confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning.

Staff work extremely well together; exemplary organisation, planning and communication between all ensures that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, which contributes to the smooth running of the club and provides children with stability and a sense of security. Robust procedures for the recruitment, induction, appraisal and ongoing training of staff ensure that they are highly skilled, knowledgeable and qualified. Staff are committed, enthusiastic and highly motivated, they continually evaluate their practice, which significantly enhances the care and development of all children.

An outstanding range of highly comprehensive policies and procedures are in place. They are implemented effectively, to promote the care, welfare and learning of children. Regular reviews are held to up-date all policies and procedures which ensure that staff and parents are kept informed of new legislation. They underpin the successful management of the provision

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to; implement a policy to ensure risk areas are supervised at all times; implement a risk assessment/safety check of outdoor areas before use. The provider has implemented a highly effective risk assessment procedure which is carried out both in and out of the premises and staff are deployed extremely well to ensure that children's safety is maintained at all times, both in and out of the premises.

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 the medication records maintain confidentiality.

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