



Sedgefield Out Of School Fun Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	314159
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Inspector	Karen Marie Tervit
Setting Address	Sedgefield Primary, Rectory Row, Sedgefield, Stockton-On-Tees, Cleveland, TS21 2BT
Telephone number	01740 623565
E-mail	sosfc@supanet.com
Registered person	Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club
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?

Sedgefield Out Of School Fun Club is a committee run scheme which has been registered since April 1995. It operates from a prefabricated building in the grounds of Sedgefield Primary School. The facility serves the two local schools during term time and the local and surrounding communities during school holidays.

The scheme is registered to provide full day care during holidays and before and after school care term time for 32 children aged between three years and under eight years. There are currently 90 children aged from three years to 11 years on roll. There are procedures in place to support children with learning difficulties.

The scheme opens five days a week all year round excluding bank holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year. Sessions are from 08:00 to 18.00 during school holidays and 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 18.00 term time.

There are five permanent members of staff working with the children four of whom hold childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very clean, bright environment. They are able to rest in the comfortable TV room or be active in the main playrooms, according to their individual needs.

Surfaces are clean and wiped down using appropriately colour coded clothes and anti bacterial sprays. Children have a confident understanding of good hygiene practices, they ensure that they have washed their hands before snack. Most children come straight into the setting and wash their hands, as they know the routine well, others do so after being gently reminded by staff or other children. Children are kept safe from the spread of infection by an effective sickness policy being in place which is shared with parents, giving them clear exclusion times. Appropriate consents and records are in place for the administration of medication and recording accidents. Staff have all recently attended first aid training so children are well protected in the event of an accident

Staff actively promote children's understanding of a healthy diet through discussions about healthy options. Children are given a choice of snacks after school. They enjoy this time, as they relax talking to each other about their day, making it a social occasion. They help themselves to drinks and clear away their own plates and cups, showing good independence skills.

Children learn about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle. They enthusiastically take an active part in physical exercise. For example, they play outside with hockey sticks and balls or play games on the marked playground showing good balancing skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to a clean, well maintained environment. Their art work is beautifully displayed and they show a sense of pride as they point out displays. Space within the self contained rooms is organised effectively into areas of play. The very broad range of resources is stored at child height. Children make their own choices developing their independence, extremely well.

Children are cared for in a secure environment and are protected by the procedures in place. All visitors to the building are monitored. Fire drills are carried out with the children so that they are aware of the routine. Effective risk assessments are carried out to ensure children's safety while attending; however, it is sometime since a written risk assessment has been completed. Children enjoy regular outings into the environment in school holidays, for example, trips to Hall Hill Farm and the fire station. Children's safety is well protected by appropriate supervision and comprehensive policies, although on occasions staff do not fully supervise all of the outdoor area.

Children are well protected and their welfare safeguarded through the staff having a good knowledge of child protection policies and procedures, and how they would put them into practise. Written procedures are in place, including what procedures would be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy attending the club, and talk positively about what they like doing; they are settled and happy. They enjoy a broad and balanced range of play opportunities at each session. Staff are deployed very effectively to support children's play, and there is a good balance between adult-led and child-initiated activities. Staff know children well, and respond sensitively to support their individual needs and to teach them new skills, for example, as they learn the rules to a game or experience a new craft activity. Activities are planned taking into account children's likes and dislikes and are evaluated to ensure they are appropriate and are enjoyed by the children. There is a very good range of resources to support children's play.

Children have high self-esteem, and share lots of conversation about their interests and home activities. They engage in their chosen activities with enthusiasm. They concentrate well and become engrossed in activities they enjoy, for example, playing on the table football, playing cluedo and doing jigsaws. They confidently use the space available and often bring their parents in to show them what they have been doing.

Children behave very well. They learn to be polite and increasingly independent as a result of the consistent support, praise and encouragement given to them. Children are confident to ask questions and their interactions with staff are warm and trusting. They are praised often and good behaviour is appropriately encouraged and reinforced.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children that attend the club develop a positive attitude to others and gain a good understanding about the wider world. Outings are undertaken during the school holidays to local places of interest like Hall Hill Farm and the fire station. Children with learning difficulties integrate well with the group. Staff have taken steps in the out of school club to promote children's development by becoming familiar with methods used at the children's school to ensure consistency.

Children are well behaved. They know what is expected of them as they follow clearly defined boundaries. Good behaviour is encouraged through the use of praise. Children feel a sense of belonging in the setting. They are learning to cooperate well together as they join in board games and team games outside.

Relationships with parents are friendly. They are kept informed about their child through daily verbal feedback. There is a written complaints procedure in place for the out of school club. However, it has not been updated in line with changes to legislation in October 2005, although staff are aware of these changes.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Effective recruitment and selection procedures ensure that children in the out of school club are cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. Adult to child ratios are well maintained and most of the staff have an appropriate childcare qualification. All staff are appropriately vetted.

The staff group is very stable, with many staff being there a number of years, ensuring that children are cared for consistently. Each child has a named adult responsible for their care and welfare. The premises are organised well, allowing children to select their own resources and take part in activities safely. They are able to move around confidently and independently. Children feel at home and at ease in the environment. This means they are confident in their play.

Staff attend training whenever possible, for example, recent first aid training, increasing their understanding. All required documentation is available, organised and easily accessible.

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 out of school club agreed to ensure the arrival and departure times of both staff and children were accurately recorded and to obtain written permission from parents to transport children in a vehicle. The out of school club no longer uses a vehicle to collect children from school, so parental permission is no longer required. The out of school club now accurately records times of arrival and departure for both adults and children, so that staff know exactly how many children and adults they have at any one time, ensuring their safety in the event of an emergency.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004 that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- consider conducting more frequent written risk assessments
- consider staff deployment when children are playing outside, so they cannot leave the premises unnoticed
- update the complaints policy in line with new regulations.

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