



The Tic Toc Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	301878
Inspection date	26 July 2006
Inspector	Ann Marie Lefevre

Setting Address	Alnwick South First School, The Avenue, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1UL
Telephone number	07786 866219
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Registered person	The Tic Toc Club Ltd.
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?

The Tic Toc Club was initially registered in September 1996 and moved to the current premises in December 1998. The setting provides places for a maximum of 32 children at any one time who are aged from three to eight years, however, children are actually admitted from their fourth birthday. Older children, up to the age of 13 years, are also able to attend. There are currently 134 children on the roll.

Childcare is provided within a single storey portacabin which is situated in the grounds of Alnwick First School. Children are accommodated in two large playrooms. There are toilet and kitchen facilities in the setting. Children attend from the first

school and also from other schools in the area. Sessions are available from Monday to Friday in term time from 07.30 to 08.45 and from 15.00 to 17.45. There is also provision during the holidays each weekday which is available from 08.00 to 17.45. The setting is open all year round except for bank holidays. The school playground and playing field are used for outdoor activities.

The group is committee led. The setting has an appropriately qualified leader and a deputy who are responsible for the day-to-day care of the children. There are two additional regular staff, two back up staff and five relief holiday staff. Students and volunteers are welcomed into the setting.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to take responsibility as they gain an insight into why it is important to maintain personal health and hygiene in their daily routines and activities. They are reminded to wash their hands before handling food, after going to the toilet and after messy play. Children learn about germs during discussions with staff and also about keeping the play area tidy. Children are happy to help tidy playthings away and many offer enthusiastic assistance in response to staff requests.

Children's health requirements are highlighted in the recording systems and policies in relation to their needs. These are maintained to ensure that parents and staff are kept informed about any health issues. The necessary information is in place and kept up to date. Accident and medication records are appropriately signed by staff and parents. Six staff members have completed first aid training. A well stocked first aid kit and a travel kit are in place. Staff are keen to ensure that children benefit from being cared for in a healthy environment. Children participate in activities which reinforce the being healthy message. They participate in activities relating to keeping their bodies healthy, for example, they have created eye-catching posters to display in the setting and inform about taking measures to stay safe in the sun.

Children learn about healthy eating and benefit from having nutritious snacks including fresh fruit at least once per week. They participate in activities which help them to appreciate which foods are good for them. Regular drinks are provided with snacks and lunch, and children are confident as they request additional drinks. Some children bring packed lunches from home, during holiday sessions, which they enjoy at midday, sitting and chatting with their friends. Staff ensure that any special dietary needs are met and work closely with parents to obtain information about their children to make sure that the children's dietary requirements are respected.

Children have many opportunities to enjoy fresh air in the spacious and enclosed school grounds. There is an exciting activity play area with robust climbing equipment. Children confidently use a wide range of large and small play equipment to help promote their coordination and dexterity. They are also able to develop their physical and emotional well-being in a good range of stimulating experiences. They participate in fun activities which exercise their bodies as well as develop their

thinking skills. Additionally, children are able to develop their emotional well-being as they build relationships and socialise with other children and adults.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The playrooms are welcoming and well set out for children to use safely. They benefit from being able to access the designated childcare areas with close, age appropriate supervision and support from the staff. Children learn about keeping safe from injury as staff remind them about taking care when using equipment, for example, wearing appropriate shoes when using the outdoor activity equipment. They also learn about being safe in the community.

Staff ensure the premises are safe and secure so that children are well protected. Many safety measures have been taken, for example, socket covers are in place, a visitors book is strictly maintained and staff carry mobile phones at all times when they are supervising children in the school grounds. Children are protected as staff take effective measures to ensure that they do not gain access to any potentially hazardous areas or materials. Daily risk assessments are undertaken in the setting to make sure the premises are kept safe. Staff are vigilant and take effective measures so that play resources, equipment and furniture are maintained in a safe and clean condition, all items are checked regularly. Staff also ensure that the toys and activities are appropriate for the age and stage of development of each child to use safely.

Children are well protected through documentation being kept in relation to child safety in the setting. Recording systems are used in conjunction with written parental consents to ensure consistency of care for each child. Staff continue to develop their awareness of child safety. There is a child protection policy in place and, although staff have had no concerns to date in relation to the children, they have a good understanding of what to be aware of, who to contact and what to record in the event of any future concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are able to build very positive relationships with their peers and with the staff members and thoroughly enjoy attending the group. They settle well and enjoy participating in the many exciting activities and projects which are educational as well as being fun. Children are comfortable in the setting and respond well to the staff's sensitive and calm approach. All children are valued by the staff, who help them to develop their confidence and sense of self. Staff respond well to the children's differing needs and ensure that all children have sufficient challenge as they participate fully in the planned and incidental activities.

Children develop their natural curiosity in a safe and secure environment. They have many opportunities to learn new things as well as develop their existing skills and

consolidate what has been learned. Children enhance their sense of growing independence as the staff members allow them to explore and investigate in many stimulating ways. Activities are planned to allow for flexibility and spontaneity which enables the children to choose what they want to do and also introduce their own ideas. The activities are monitored and reviewed so that staff can plan and maintain maximum interest.

Children use the playrooms and school grounds very well as they develop their skills in games, craft activities or interacting with others in the setting. Children have also gained valuable life experience from participating in activities relating to their health and safety. Children confidently use large and small equipment and a variety of materials very well to create lots of exciting pictures and models, for example, when drawing large people and incorporating these in decoupage type pictures. They use shape, colour and texture to create wonderful effects as they make masks, magic carpet pictures or puppets.

Children gain confidence in their abilities as they interact with their peers and with staff. They are able to participate in many new and exciting experiences and are encouraged to take an active role in the group. Staff are skilled at using clear and simple language and guidance which enables the children to learn and develop well. Children benefit from the positive community spirit in their immediate home area and in the setting. They enjoy participating in a varied range of group and individual activities, as well as having fun with their friends.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the staff's positive attitude towards equal opportunities and respecting individual and differing needs. There is a strong sense of community in the setting. Children have many good opportunities to develop their appreciation of the wider world from being made more aware of their local environment and contrasting this with other cultures. For example, children have participated in festivals and celebrations such as Christmas and Halloween. They have shared information about family holidays to other countries. They also experience other festivals from around the world, for example, as they make lanterns and dragon puppets to reflect the Chinese New Year.

All children are valued and staff work closely with parents to ensure that they obtain the necessary care and learning opportunities to gain maximum enjoyment and stimulation in the setting. Children learn about sharing and valuing others from the very good role models provided by the staff who gently and sensitively support, praise and encourage the children to help them to develop their self-esteem and sense of belonging. Children are courteous and well behaved. Children are very happy and relaxed in the group and they are really keen to take part in the setting. They are able to make informed choices in their play and daily routines and demonstrate increasing confidence as they select playthings and participate in activities. Staff are adept at encouraging children to share their opinions and take an active role in the group.

There is a really positive partnership with parents and carers which significantly contributes to the quality of care provided for their children. Staff have a sound knowledge of the children and the wishes of the parents to ensure there is consistency and continuity so that each child can participate and progress effectively. Parents are able to contribute fully in the exchange of information necessary for their child's care. They are kept informed about daily issues and are aware of topics for activities. The staff team have prepared written information, use noticeboards effectively, have regular newsletters and give verbal updates at each session to ensure parents have an understanding of the service provided for their children. In addition, parents gain a further insight into their child's progress from the wealth of art and craft projects taken home or effectively displayed in the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The staff team are professional, caring and dedicated in their approach to the care of the children and they are supported by the committee. This is reflected in the well-organised childcare areas in the setting, in safety measures taken and in the range of good quality resources and equipment used. Clearly defined, sensitive daily routines enable children to settle well and feel secure.

Informative files, noticeboards and other means are available to inform staff and parents. A range of policies and procedures in relation to health, safety and welfare are used to inform practice and protect the children who attend. However, a noticeboard sign which informs parents that the policies and procedures are available for them to look at is covered by other information; this also pertains to the complaints procedure and Ofsted contact details. Detailed and effective recording systems include the required individual child records as well as those relating to the smooth management of the setting. Staff update and develop these for the benefit of children attending, their parents and staff.

Children benefit from the good quality care provided and from the staff's positive attitude towards their own training and personal development. Staff have completed a wide range of courses relating to the health, welfare and care of the children, and continue to assess and enhance their existing skills.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were two recommendations from the last inspection relating to developing the recording in the fire drill book and ensuring the heaters are made safe.

The fire recording system has been improved and steps have been taken to ensure the heaters do not present a hazard to the children attending.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by the 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 further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that the notice to inform parents about the setting policies and procedures, and the complaints procedure including Ofsted contact details are more prominently displayed.

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