



Sele Lions Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	301896
Inspection date	27 June 2006
Inspector	Hilary, Jane Purvis
Setting Address	The Sele, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3QZ
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Registered person	The Committee Of Sele Lions Out Of School 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?

Sele Lions Out Of School Club registered in 1999. It operates from the dining halls of Sele County First School, Hexham. A maximum of 50 children may attend the club at any one time. The club runs before and after school each weekday between 07.50 and 08.50 and between 15.00 and 17.45. Staff members are on site 30 minutes before and after each session.

There are currently 184 children aged between four years and 13 years on the roll. Most of the children attending the club are pupils from the first school in which the club is situated, however, some children come from a local middle school.

There are nine staff employed. All staff are suitably qualified. The club currently supports one child with learning difficulties

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are given good opportunities to learn about the importance of health and hygiene in their daily routine and activities. They develop independence and are encouraged to take responsibility for their own personal hygiene, including ensuring that they wash their hands at appropriate times during the day. Staff effectively monitor children's use of the toilet area and gently remind children to undertake hygiene tasks consistently. Appropriate equipment has been provided to support this development, such as ensuring that soap and towels are in easy reach. Children's individual health issues are clearly indicated by parents and well incorporated into the daily routine.

Two members of staff currently hold an appropriate first aid certificate. Staff have undertaken additional training in the administration of intravenous antihistamine to enable them to provide appropriate care for children who have severe allergic reactions. All medication administered to children is well documented and staff ensure that all parents provide written permission prior to each administration. Staff are fully aware of the location of the well stocked first aid box, which is effectively maintained by the manager, this ensures that the contents remain suitable and in date. Detailed records are maintained regarding any accidents that may occur, including parents signatures which are consistently included.

Children benefit from the healthy eating approach within the setting. They are provided with a healthy snack which includes brown bread and a wide variety of fruit. The staff and committee have undertaken a review of the healthy eating options within the club; this has resulted in the club no longer providing biscuits, white bread or sugary cereals. The healthy options provided are freely available to all children, who make individual choices. Staff talk to the children about the snacks they have chosen and why some foods are healthy and others unhealthy. Suitable drinks, provided in a jug at low level allowing children to serve themselves, are freely available throughout each session.

Children's physical development is well promoted through suitable activities being effectively incorporated into the daily routine. The club provides children with fun and interesting physical activities both outdoors and indoors; they are able to run, jump and move freely. Staff effectively develop children's understanding of the need to undertake physical activities through appropriate discussions, including the benefits of being active. The club has access to both the school yard and the school field, enabling staff to vary the activities provided for children, including the use of bats and balls, throwing and catching and team games.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the excellent standard of safety within the premises. All aspects of safety within the premises have been well assessed and suitable precautions put in place. The premises are maintained very securely, with security procedures consistently being implemented, such as ensuring that all exit doors are always locked during club hours and carefully monitoring access to the provision. A secure hand-over procedure is in place which ensures that children's safety is promoted. Children are encouraged to be aware of safety and safe behaviour. Staff gently remind children why some behaviour is inappropriate or unsafe, such as running indoors or pushing.

Staff supervise the children well and take effective measures to ensure that the play resources, equipment and furniture are maintained in a safe, suitable and clean condition for the children attending. This includes implementing an effective policy of regular cleaning and daily checking. All staff are aware that if any equipment becomes broken or dangerous it should be removed immediately to prevent it from becoming a risk to children. Children's safety is well promoted through the appropriate fire safety equipment being in place, for example, fire extinguishers and smoke alarms. Each piece of equipment is checked annually by the fire safety officer. The fire drill is practised at least once per term at varying times during the session. Staff also vary the exit route taken to accommodate the possibility of the location of the fire varying.

Children are well protected through staff continuing to develop their awareness, knowledge and understanding of child protection, by participating in appropriate external and internal courses.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with excellent opportunities to partake in a very wide range of fun and stimulating activities. The range available incorporates many experiences for children, including creative play, construction, imaginative play and small worlds. All of the activities available are exceptionally well resourced, allowing large numbers of children to enjoy an activity together. For example, at the play dough table, where children can choose from many variations of cutters, rolling pins, moulds and modelling tools. Staff skilfully use the resources available to enhance children's enjoyment and their positive experience. They encourage them through open questioning to think about what they are playing with and how it can be further developed. The environment within the club is happy and fun, with lots of laughter and chatting between all children and staff. The selection of activities available allows children to undertake a good range of exciting and lively experiences, however, there are limited opportunities for children to sit in a quiet area and undertake an activity, such as reading.

Children have developed warm, caring relationships with all staff members. They

respond very well to each child's needs and indicate a good understanding of dealing with each child as an individual. Children clearly show that they have made close friendships with other children. Staff provide specific, meaningful praise for all children, this enhances their feeling of self-confidence and belonging. Staff provide good role models for children, dealing with each other and all children in a respectful, caring manner.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are provided with good support from staff to develop a positive attitude towards each other. They are encouraged to be aware that other people have needs and may be affected by their behaviour, such as running or pushing. Children are provided with activities that are non-stereotypical and available to all. The information gathered about each child from their parents is effectively used within the provision to meet the child's needs. Staff show an excellent understanding of each child's individual likes and dislikes and endeavour to provide activities that stimulate and challenge all children. Children develop a good understanding of the wider world through suitable resources that positively reflect other cultures and religions. Multi-cultural festivals are celebrated, such as Chinese New Year.

Children with learning difficulties are welcomed into the setting. Two members of staff have undertaken additional training on caring for children with learning difficulties to ensure that the care provided is of a high standard and that their knowledge is up to date. There is one child attending at present with learning difficulties.

Children's behaviour is managed very well. Staff use suitable methods including discussion, distraction and the effective use of praise and encouragement. This positive approach creates a happy, fun environment. Children's kind and considerate actions towards each other are well recognised and praised by staff. Parents are kept fully aware of the policy in place outlining how children's behaviour will be managed. A copy of the policy is clearly displayed on the childcare room wall and a copy is included within the information booklet given to all parents.

Children benefit from the positive relationship developed between staff and parents. Children's details are effectively used to ensure that all staff are aware of each child's individual needs. Positive feedback is provided by parents who indicate that they are very happy with, and confident in the care that their children receive. Parents are verbally updated daily by staff, who provide information on what their child has enjoyed, eaten and any issues that may have arisen. There is a selection of relevant policies in place which reflect the running of the provision. A complaints policy is in place, however, it does not include Ofsted's, address and contact telephone number.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

All required policies and procedures are in place, this supports the care of children.

All records are accurate and up to date, including children's details and the daily register. The provision ensures that parents keep them updated with any changes of contact details, such as mobile phone numbers, by sending written reminders on a regular basis.

The organisation of the premises is good. Staff have skilfully organised the space available well to provide a wide selection of activities and experiences to all children. There is a strong daily routine in place which includes a varied selection of fun and interesting activities, which reflect the individual needs and preferences of the children cared for. Children are confident in the daily routine and are able to develop an understanding of, and a confidence in the pattern of each session.

The staff recruitment procedure in place is robust. It includes aspects, such as interviews, undertaking of references, Criminal Records Bureau clearance and an induction period. This ensures that children are cared for by suitable staff who have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Staff have access to relevant training, including child protection, first aid and special needs, which is used to further enhance the good standard of care provided.

Regular staff meetings are undertaken, this ensures that all staff members are aware of any changes within the provision and are able to contribute to the planning of activities and areas of development.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The provision has further developed their recording of accidents and incidents to allow confidentiality to be maintained. A written statement on caring for children with learning difficulties has been developed by the provision and is understood by the staff and made available to parents. This ensures that both staff and parents are fully aware of the procedures being followed when caring for any child with learning difficulties. Children are well protected through all staff having attended appropriate training on child protection, further developing their knowledge and understanding.

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):

- further develop a quiet area
- further develop the complaints procedure to include the address and contact number of Ofsted.

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