



## **Broomhaugh Squirrel's out of School Club**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY321348
<b>Inspection date</b>	04 August 2006
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<b>Registered person</b>	Broomhaugh Squirrels Club
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Broomhaugh Squirrels Out of School Club is a committee run facility managed by Broomhaugh Squirrels Limited and operates from rooms within Broomhaugh C of E Aided First School. A maximum of 16 children may attend the group at any one time. The setting is open each weekday from 08.00 to 08.50 and from 15.15 to 17.45, during school term time, and from 08.00 to 17.45 during school holiday periods, throughout the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 15 children aged from three to under eight years on roll. The

group mainly serves the needs of children from the local community, although some children come from a wider catchment area. The setting employs three members of staff. Of these, the manager holds an appropriate early years qualification and two staff are working towards relevant playwork or childcare qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health requirements are adequately considered as a result of formal policies and procedures having been drafted and suitably practised within the group. For example, sound arrangements are identified for the exclusion of sick or infectious children, or for children who take ill, whilst in the setting. Accidents are appropriately recorded and medication records are in place, although children's health is potentially compromised because relevant dosage instructions are not always completed. Some staff have attended relevant first aid training, although first aid certificates are not held on the premises.

Children's health is enhanced through outdoor play. They enjoy the fresh air and they develop physical skills by using a good range of outdoor resources. They also have opportunities for quiet times, such as table-top activities or relaxing on floor-cushions in a 'den' they imaginatively create under a games table. Children are learning the importance of thorough personal hygiene and cleanliness. Most wash their hands after toileting or before eating, although some have to be prompted to do so.

Staff discuss catering arrangements with parents and they are vigilant regarding children's special dietary needs. During term time, children enjoy a suitable range of well-balanced meals and snacks. They are learning about healthy eating, for example, as they plant lettuce or cress which they use to make sandwiches. During school holiday periods children bring packed lunches and teas. However, perishable foodstuffs are not suitably stored to minimise the risk to children's health. Children sit together in a large group for snack time. They are learning good table manners and enjoy mealtimes as good social occasions.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy spacious, well-organised play areas that provide a warm, welcoming child-orientated environment. Resources are accessibly set out, so children can make personal choices and develop independence. Some children enjoy solitary play, whilst others take part in self-initiated group activities. Good use is made of outdoor areas. Children can move around freely and engage in a wide range of physical activities, which they thoroughly enjoy. The manager ensures staff are well deployed, so children are effectively supervised as they move around the setting and staff closely monitor exits when parents and carers bring, or collect, their children.

There are good systems in place to keep children safe. Comprehensive policy

statements are well practised within the setting. For example, daily checklists are completed to ensure that potential hazards have been minimised. Outings are fully risk assessed and formal agreements are drawn up with parents and carers. Children are also learning good strategies for keeping themselves safe. Regular fire drills ensure they know how to evacuate the premises in an emergency. They are also learning to move around sensibly, indoors and out. They know that they must wear safety helmets when using skateboards, rollerblades or scooters.

Children's well-being is given high priority regarding matters of child protection. A key person is responsible for relevant issues. She states she has completed relevant training, although her certificate of attendance is not available within the setting. A comprehensive policy statement has been drafted and new staff are all appropriately briefed, as part of their induction. As a result, staff demonstrate a sound understanding of action they would take, in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from good regular routines within the group. They know what is expected of them and they manage themselves well, helping willingly when asked to do so. They are forming good relationships with staff and peers. They play nicely together, sharing with one another and taking turns nicely during group activities. Staff allow the children to initiate their own play and to develop at their own pace. Nevertheless, they support the children effectively, for example, by joining in with games or activities that younger children find difficult to follow. As a result, children are happy and settled within the group. They move around confidently and demonstrate good levels of independence.

Staff provide a well-planned range of activities and resources that link to interesting topics and themes. For example, they link play and learning to sporting events, such as the World Cup, or festivals and celebrations, such as Chinese New Year. Children demonstrate a keen interest in the topics. At present, they are learning about 'Countries of the World' by drawing national flags or colouring in artefacts that they link to the individual countries. They are proud of their wall frieze which displays good examples of their work.

They also have good opportunities to self-select other activities which are readily accessible to them. They enjoy board games, construction equipment, craft activities, imaginative role play and computer games. They are particularly enthusiastic about outdoor play. Older children use skateboards or rollerblades skilfully, whilst younger children enjoy ball games, riding on scooters or learning to skip. All children are gaining good skills, particularly in relation to social interaction, physical development, imagination and creativity.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children and their families are equally valued and respected. Staff give high priority to meeting children's individual needs, including any special needs. They plan and provide a very good range of activities, resources and equipment that enable all children to take part. Gender issues are positively promoted within the group. Children enjoy good opportunities to learn about other cultures, religions and the wider world. For example, when celebrating Chinese New Year they created a giant dragon, Chinese hats, masks and lanterns. They ate rice and noodles and they learned about the art of Origami and about Chinese writing.

Each playscheme starts with a 'Getting to know everyone' session, when children are introduced to one another; thereby helping them to settle-in comfortably. During day-to-day sessions they make independent choices about activities they wish to use and they willingly share the responsibility of tidying up. Regular children's meetings provide good opportunities for them to contribute towards the group. They make suggestions for future holiday scheme activities and discuss topics and activities they would enjoy. Children manage their behaviour well because staff use positive behaviour management strategies, such as appropriate speech and body language, to sensitively reinforce acceptable boundaries. Children respond enthusiastically to the purposeful praise they receive and they are learning to accept responsibility for their own actions. They also have good opportunities to discuss and agree rules that they feel are fair within the group.

Staff value good working relationships with parents. Comprehensive information-sharing systems are well used to identify children's care arrangements and routines. Formal contracts and agreements are suitably maintained, in line with the requirements of the National Standards. Suitable arrangements are in place to record complaints, although the policy statement and complaints log have not been reviewed and developed in line with updated regulations that came into force in October 2005. Questionnaires are well used to obtain parents' and children's views and ideas regarding the club. Many positive comments have been received, indicating that children enjoy attending the group and that parents are very happy with the quality of care provided.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care and well-being is well met because the registered provider implements comprehensive recruitment, vetting and induction procedures that ensure staff are suitably qualified and experienced for their individual roles. Regulatory staff-to-child ratios are suitably maintained and staff are effectively deployed to ensure children have good support. Staff have attended various training sessions, including first aid, child protection and 'Top Play' sports skills training. Some are currently working towards playwork or childcare qualifications, in order to develop their personal knowledge and skills.

A comprehensive range of policies and procedures underpins the smooth running of the group and ensures consistency within the setting, whilst keeping parents fully informed. Documentation systems are generally maintained in line with the

requirements of the National Standards. The exception to this is that relevant details relating to the registered provider and staff are not available within the club, although they are held on record by a member of the management committee. Also, the complaints record and procedure have not been updated in line with regulatory changes, medication records are not fully completed and relevant qualification and training certificates are not available. Staff have agreed to address these issues as a matter of priority. Documentary information is securely stored to ensure confidentiality and relevant records are retained for a minimum of two years, in line with the National Standards.

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- improve medication records by ensuring dosage instructions are fully completed
- ensure perishable foodstuffs are suitably refrigerated
- devise and implement a system for effectively handling complaints, in line with the National Standards and ensure the complaints procedure is appropriately updated

- improve documentation systems by maintaining relevant records relating to staff and management, in line with the requirements of the National Standards. Ensure required documentation is always available for inspection by the early years childcare inspector.

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