



St John's After School Club and Holiday Scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	107056
Inspection date	16 June 2006
Inspector	Sue Davey
Setting Address	Worrall Road, Clifton, Bristol, Avon, BS8 2UH
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Registered person	St Johns After School Club & Holiday Scheme
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?

St. John's Out of School Care opened in 1990. It provides a breakfast club, after school care and a holiday playscheme. All groups operate from a separate building in the grounds of St. John's Primary School, in Clifton, Bristol. Children have use of the fully enclosed school playgrounds. Staff collect children from their classes and a small number of children may come from other schools in the area. The Breakfast Club and After School Club open each weekday during school term times. Sessions are from 08.00 to 08.55 and 15:30 to 18:00. The Holiday Scheme is usually open each weekday of the school holidays, from 8:00 to 18:00. Children are welcome to attend full or half day sessions.

A maximum of 40 children may attend the breakfast and after-school clubs and 24 children may attend the holiday play scheme. The conditions of registration refer to children aged from four to under eight years old. Children aged over eight years may also attend. Currently there are 145 children on roll. Of these, 96 are under eight years old. The group supports children with learning difficulties, disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

A voluntary committee of parents have overall management responsibility of the club. They employ a co-ordinator, a qualified play leader and 10 other part-time staff, some of whom also hold appropriate childcare qualifications. The group is an affiliated member of Band and part of Bristol Holiday Play schemes.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is protected because effective procedures minimise the spread of infection. All areas of the premises are clean and children do not attend if they are ill or infectious. Staff remind children to wash their hands at appropriate times, such as before cooking activities or after visiting the toilet. Parents give specific information about children's dietary or medical needs so that appropriate care can be assured. A number of staff hold up to date paediatric first aid certificates. They know what to do if accidents occur, which includes keeping a written record to share with parents. Parents are required to give written permission in the event of a child needing medication during a session. However, this has not yet been necessary and so there is no record in place for the administration of medicines.

Parents provide children with packed lunches or teas, for holiday or after school clubs and staff prepare cereal and toast for breakfast if children require it. Cooking activities serve to promote healthy eating, although snacks consist of a fruit squash drink and biscuit. Water is always available and children are encouraged to drink more during hot weather or after energetic play. Children have good access to outside play. They engage in various physical activities such as ball games, team games, clambering on apparatus, using roller blades or skateboards. There is a large covered area so that children can play outside even in wet weather and they have use of the school hall if necessary.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe because staff take action to minimise risks and they supervise children well. The premises are well maintained and thoughtfully organised to provide a wide range of activities. All toys and equipment are suitable for the age range of the children and storage arrangements mean they are easily accessible. The detailed risk assessments identify potential hazards indoors and outside. The same care and consideration is given to planned excursions during holiday periods. Security

arrangements mean that access to the school grounds is closely monitored and children cannot leave the premises unsupervised. When children play outside, staff use walkie-talkies as an extra means of communication so that help is quickly at hand if necessary.

Staff know which children should be attending the after school club each day and they collect them directly from their classrooms. Likewise, children who attend the breakfast club are taken to their classrooms by staff. There are well-established stringent procedures to ensure that children are only ever released to adults who are authorised by parents to pick them up. Children's welfare is further safeguarded as staff understand their responsibilities regarding child protection and they know where to seek advice if concerns arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive at club eager and ready to play. They freely select toys and materials and quickly settle to activities of their choice. Staff join in with children's play and talk to them about their day. There is a clear emphasis on fun and relaxation. Children have the opportunity to play computer games, make models with construction toys, engage in role-play, use a range of art materials or just relax with a good book. Staff regularly plan additional craft and cooking activities. For example, children spent time happily absorbed in the task of creating Father's Day cards while others prepared and chopped a selection of fresh fruits to make kebabs. Children enjoy playing outside and make good use of the school grounds.

The breakfast club gives children the opportunity to eat together and enjoy the social aspect of meeting with friends or chatting to staff before the start of their school day. During holiday periods, children have access to a wide range of activities. Many activities are pre-planned so that parents and children can make informed choices about which days they wish to book. An outing is usually organised once a week. This provides children with a change of environment and new, and often exciting, experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are fully included in the setting and have equal access to the resources and activities. They independently choose what to play with and staff respect their choices. Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are cared for very well. If necessary, additional support is obtained to make sure their specific needs are met and that they gain maximum benefit from their time in the club. Children have a sense of ownership and belonging to the club. Their work is attractively displayed and they contribute towards the planning of future activities. They understand club rules and behave very well. Staff have a positive and realistic approach towards behaviour management. If disputes arise, they encourage children to talk things through to find a suitable solution.

Staff build good relationships with parents. They talk to parents about their child's wellbeing and discuss any concerns as they arise. The parents' notice board contains a wealth of information to keep parents up to date with club policies and future events. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in the management of the club by volunteering to serve on the committee. Their personal involvement benefits parents and children alike.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

A voluntary committee of parents manages the provision. Recruitment procedures ensure that before appointment, staff are thoroughly checked to ascertain their suitability to work with young children. The play leader works closely with children and staff. This enables her to provide good support and monitor staff performance. Staff work well together as a team. They meet regularly to plan fund-raising events and future activities for the children. There is a full set of policies and procedures, which underpin the day-to-day running of the group. However, some do not include the latest changes to the National Standards. All regulatory documentation is in place but, although not yet required, there is no system to record the administration of medicines should it be necessary. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the setting was asked to ensure a parent or carer signs records of accidents. It was also recommended that a risk assessment be conducted of children using the outside play area, including the building rubble and use of roller blades. Since then, staff have tried to make sure that parents always sign the accident record. However, there are still inconsistencies in this area especially regarding the breakfast club. There are comprehensive risk assessments in place, which now include outside play. The situation with building rubble has resolved itself now that building work is complete. Children who wish to use skateboards or roller blades are encouraged to wear a safety helmet.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaint 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):

- develop and maintain a system to record any medication administered to child, either by a member of staff or the child itself
- make sure reviews and updating of policies and procedures take account of changes to the National Standards.

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