



Triangle After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	509518
Inspection date	04 September 2006
Inspector	Wendy, Elizabeth Lightfoot
Setting Address	Triangle Community Centre, Mill Road, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 7DX
Telephone number	01730_301000
E-mail	triangle@liss-on-line.co.uk
Registered person	TRIANGLE COMMUNITY CENTRE TRUSTEES
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?

Triangle After School Club has been registered since 1997 and is run by Triangle Community Centre Trustees. The group operates from two rooms in Triangle Community Centre in the village Liss, north of Petersfield. Triangle After School Club serves the local community and runs a 'Walking Bus' from Liss Infant and Junior Schools. Children, whose parents make alternative arrangements for their transport to the club, are accepted from schools in other areas. Triangle After School Club opens Monday to Friday in term time from 15:15 to 18:00.

Triangle After School Club is registered to care for 26 children and there are currently 46 children on roll who attend a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs.

Two full time staff, one part time staff and three volunteers work with the children. Three staff have an early years qualification to NVQ level three and two of these are currently attending further courses.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is effectively supported as the premises are very clean and staff observe good hygiene practices. Children learn personal hygiene routines, such as washing their hands before their snack and after visits to the toilet. They receive healthy snacks, soon after arrival at the club. Children choose from several low sugar varieties of squash, and a selection of fresh fruit and enjoy lively conversation at the dining tables.

Children's medical health is supported by staff's good understanding of their medical conditions and any allergies. They receive prompt attention in the event of an accident as all club staff maintain current first aid training and the first aid box is appropriately stocked. Advance parental consent is sought for emergency medical advice, or treatment and records are maintained of any accident and care given. Existing injury records are also maintained. However parents are not consistently asked to countersign these records, which occasionally limits their ability to monitor their children's well-being.

Children enjoy physical activities and fresh air in the enclosed playground. They skip, play hopscotch, hoopla and old fashioned play ground games. In poor weather conditions, a room is cleared for children to enjoy skipping, or sponge football, indoors. Staff ensure children's comfort in hot weather by planning calm indoor activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in premises which are welcoming, very clean, well-lit and well-ventilated. Their security is paramount and they receive good supervision from staff. Space and resources are well-organised to allow children to relax and play freely, after school. A comfortable and very well-stocked book corner allows children to rest on cushions. They sit in a quiet area to do their homework, spread out on the floor for small world play, or build imaginative space vehicles, with very good quantities of construction materials, undisturbed, on the table tops. Children enjoy a range of art materials making colourful displays for the Community Centre walls. They access a safe, secure and well-maintained playground for physical play. Toys and resources are well-selected to be safe and suitable for children's stages of development.

Children's safety is supported by daily risk assessments and measures put in place to reduce these. Staff are well-informed on health and safety issues and children learn rules to keep themselves safe, such as not running, inside the building. Clear arrangements are in place to protect children in the event of a fire and all children practice fire drills regularly. Children's security from abuse is enhanced by staff awareness of child protection issues and steps to take if concerned about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in their club, entering confidently and clearly enjoying social interaction with familiar friends and staff members. A good range of activities is set out in readiness for their arrival. Children take responsibility for their own club, happily undertaking the transfer of toys to new storage boxes and labelling these. They help to clear up after their snacks. Children develop links with the local community through projects. They all submit entries to the local horticultural show, and are commended for them.

Children benefit from staff understanding of activities they will enjoy. Children learn to understand many aspects of life through role play, dressing-up as different characters in home corner, imaginatively exploring scenarios with small world figures, vehicles and play mats, dolls houses and furniture. They relax in the book corner, absorbed in their reading, and borrow books to take home, so they can finish their stories. Younger children enjoy companionship and support from staff, encouraged to express their ideas and to experiment to achieve them. Children are praised for their efforts and success, building self-esteem and motivating them to extend their activities. Older children concentrate for long periods with construction materials, making a variety of space vehicles. They plan, make suggestions and adapt ideas, in partnership.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern, as staff quietly enable all children to take part, making any adaptations which may be necessary for younger children, or those who have special needs. Children benefit from staff's good knowledge of their particular needs. Children learn to value diversity through an extensive range of books covering many countries of the world, playing with a family of Indian puppets and ethnic play food and using lengths of fabric to make saris. Boys and girls are encouraged to experience the whole range of play materials, equipment and resources available.

Children are helped to learn what is right and wrong. The club has a brief set of rules to help children learn fairness towards each other and to be safe in the setting. Reminders are stage appropriate and children respond quickly. They are considerate to staff and other children and use their own initiative to be helpful, such as by setting out the chairs for snack time. Children are treated with courtesy and they respond politely, so the atmosphere is conducive to relaxation and enjoyment. If any behavioural incidents occur, they are managed in positive ways. Their parents are advised when they collect their children, to encourage a consistent approach in helping children to learn, although parents do not always countersign the records.

Children benefit from good relationships between staff and parents, ensuring children are cared for in line with parents wishes. Parents receive information about enrolment, staffing and activities as well as copies of all policies and procedures, in a reader-friendly brochure. Information about children's activities and their well-being is shared in a good verbal exchange with staff, as parents collect their children. Parents report that often their children do not want to stop playing to go home and ask to attend even when parents are not at work. Staff monitor and maintain privacy and confidentiality of information held on children and their families,

both in conversation and regarding records. Parents have confidence in the club's good arrangements for children's security, both on the premises and in monitoring who may collect their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The after school club meets the needs of the range of children who attend. Management have a clear sense of the purpose of the club, to provide safe and reliable care, relaxation, social opportunities and interesting activities for the children. This is reflected in a comprehensive set of policies, although the detail of some of these needs updating. Children are cared for by a well-qualified and experienced staff team, who are committed to further training for the benefit of the children. All staff are fully vetted, as are the regular volunteers. Management are reviewing recent changes in their responsibilities regarding vetting, but do not yet have a full understanding.

Time, space, staffing and resources are organised well to meet children's needs. Activities are set up in readiness for children's arrival from school and are easily accessed, allowing children much free choice and independence. Staff listen to children's wishes and fetch additional materials if requested. Refreshments are quickly available, so children are re-energised and ready to play. Good staff: child ratios ensure children receive the support they need. Careful records are kept of children's attendances and head-counts used to add to children's security. Documentation is mostly used effectively to underpin the care of the children, though some records are not up to date or lack detail. Records are stored securely and retained for appropriate periods.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the setting was asked to keep records of existing injuries, record the signature of parents in the accident book, record the arrival and departure times of staff and to provide healthy and nutritious snacks for children.

Most improvements are in place. Records are now maintained of existing injuries and staff arrival and departure times. However, parents are not consistently asked to countersign accident, existing injury or incident records.

Children now enjoy fresh fruit and a selection of squashes containing no added sugar.

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 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):

- ensure all documentation, such as the club's policies, are up to date and that children's accident or incident records, are countersigned by their parents
- ensure that processes regarding staff vetting reflect the club's new responsibilities.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk