



St John's Church Hall (Weston)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY292061
Inspection date	04 August 2006
Inspector	Wendy Brooks

Setting Address	Heath Road South, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 5LY
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Registered person	Halton Play Council Ltd
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St John's Church Hall Out of School Playscheme was registered in 2006. It is one of several provisions run by Halton Play Council. The playscheme operates from one main room within St John's church hall in Weston Village, Cheshire. Children have access to a grassed area for outdoor play.

The playscheme operates Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 16.00 during the school holidays. There are currently over 40 children aged 5 to 14 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting is able to provide support to children who have learning difficulties and disabilities.

The setting employs five members of staff, all of whom have attended appropriate training in play work.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children understand basic health and hygiene routines such as washing hands before baking activities and after using the toilet. Reminders from staff encourage children to follow these routines and posters displayed in the toilet area remind children of the need to prevent germs spreading. Parents are requested to provide hats and sun cream for their children during hot weather in order to maintain children's health when playing in the sunshine.

Children's medical needs are discussed with parents and consent for emergency medical advice or treatment is obtained. Discussions demonstrate that all staff attend basic first aid training before the playscheme commences, however, there is no evidence of this held on site. In addition, children's accident records do not show parental acknowledgement. This compromises children's health and well-being.

Children benefit from a variety of physical activities. The outdoor area is accessed on a daily basis and children enjoy a selection of games such as football and parachute games which contribute towards their physical development. Children independently select games such as 'Twister' which they play indoors and all children are encouraged to participate in team games such as ten-pin bowling to keep children active. During the playscheme children are provided with opportunities to visit the local area and go on outings which further contribute to the range of outdoor activities available.

Drinking water is readily available to children at all times and children are also encouraged to bring their own drinks which they can access independently. Children are given the opportunity to purchase 'tuck' at set times during each session where they can choose from snacks such as cartons of fruit juice and plain biscuits. Children are not provided with the opportunity to access fresh fruit which means their health is not fully promoted.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment where most risks are identified and minimised, allowing children to move around safely and independently. Staff check areas for safety before children arrive at each session, although the health and safety checklist which is in place is not always completed accurately. A record of visitors to the playscheme is maintained accurately and visitors are asked to wear a badge to ensure that staff and children are aware of any visitors at the setting.

Children are provided with equipment and furniture which is safe and suitable for

children's different needs. For example, younger children are provided with smaller chairs and tables which they can sit at comfortably and older children use the larger furniture to ensure their needs are met. Resources are set out to allow children to move around each activity independently and additional resources are stored within the main room which children can access on request.

Children are kept safe while they are on the premises because staff ensure that children are aware of the 'golden rules' from the beginning. Children know which areas are not to be used and gentle reminders from staff help to keep children safe at the playscheme. Fire drills are practised with children to help them develop an understanding of keeping themselves safe. There is, however, no record in place to show this.

Staff undertake training to develop their understanding of child protection issues before the playscheme commences and discussion demonstrates that they are aware of the appropriate documentation and procedures to follow. However, there are no copies of this documentation available on site.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the playscheme and spend their time purposefully because staff provide a good selection of activities which appeal to all. A play plan is displayed to inform parents and children of activities and events which are due to take place.

Staff plan a selection of guided activities to include arts and crafts, baking and outdoor games. Children are encouraged to take part in planned activities in addition to making free choices about their play by selecting from the other toys and resources available, such as table top games, books and construction. Areas are arranged within the setting to allow children independence and encourage them to make choices about their activities.

After taking part in a cake making activity, children choose to do some drawings, make a pom-pom to take home, then move outside to join in with a parachute game. Children develop confidence and self-esteem as their arts and crafts are displayed around the room. Children identify their own 'cress heads' they made earlier in the week and explain how they planted the cress seeds and made a face for their individual characters.

Children play harmoniously and staff encourage team work as children cheer each other on during a whole group game of ten-pin bowling. Children join in with activities enthusiastically and look forward to planned activities such as a slumber party and a visit to the council led Fun Day the following week.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and their needs are well met. Staff are aware of individual needs of the children who attend and all children are included in the activities. Information is obtained from parents during admission regarding any additional needs children may have. Children are encouraged to treat each other with respect. This is reinforced in the 'golden rules' display which children helped to create and staff remind children during group times about behaving kindly to each other.

Children begin to learn about cultural diversity through activities and discussions. A display of resources from Africa including traditional costumes, musical instruments and pictures helps children to develop an understanding of the wider world. Children are encouraged to explore the resources and enjoy making their own music with the drums and other instruments. Other books are available and further activities are planned to develop children's understanding of diversity. Children also learn about their local community through visits and discussions. Children were invited to visit the church next door where they enjoyed exploring the different areas within the church and took part in a brass rubbing activity.

Children build positive relationships with staff and other children during their time at the setting. Children are aware of the boundaries in place and gentle reminders help them to behave appropriately. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and staff use various strategies to work with children if any disagreements arise.

Parents are kept informed of events that take place at the setting. Information is displayed within the entrance area for parents to read and staff ensure that younger children are collected by a familiar adult before leaving the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and relaxed at the setting. They build positive relationships with the staff and other children and develop their confidence as they select from the activities on offer.

Children's needs are met through generally effective organisation, although there are several areas which have been overlooked. Discussions demonstrate that all staff have attended relevant play work training and have been suitably cleared to work with children. However, there is not evidence of this in place for all staff working at the setting which compromises children's well-being.

Space and resources are effectively managed because staff have a suitable knowledge and understanding of childcare. Acceptable policies and procedures are in place to ensure children are protected from harm and kept safe.

Parents are kept informed of details about the provision. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

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 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 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):

- ensure that evidence of staff suitability and qualifications in First Aid are held on site
- ensure that there is space for parental signatures on accident records to show acknowledgement of any accidents that occur
- ensure that appropriate documentation for child protection procedures, in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board, is available on site.

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