



## **St.Mary's Out of School Club**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY293746
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 May 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Jill Hunn

<b>Setting Address</b>	St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Woodside Way, Kings Heath, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN5 7HX
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<b>Registered person</b>	Karen Wilson
<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.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St Mary's Out of School Club is privately owned and opened in October 2004. It operates from rooms within St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Kingsheath, Northampton. A maximum of 40 children may attend the club at any one time. The setting is open each weekday during school term times from 7:30 to 8:45 and from 15:00 to 18:00. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 14 children aged from 3 to under 8 years and 8 children over 8 on roll. Children attend from Kingsheath and surrounding areas of Northampton. The club employs three staff. One member of staff holds an early years qualification.

The setting receives support from the Northamptonshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of effective practices in promoting their health as they become increasingly independent in their personal care. They wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating and before taking part in cooking activities and can explain that they do so to get rid of germs. They understand how to keep safe in the sun as they apply sun cream and put on their hats before going out to play in hot weather. Each day there are opportunities for children to get fresh air as they take part in outdoor activities and ball games that contribute to their good health and development. Children are challenged to develop new skills as they confidently take part in activities supported and encouraged by staff who have a good understanding of their individual stage of development. For example, younger children are thrilled as they skip for the first time using a skipping rope and hit balls with bats whilst older children enthusiastically take part in skipping games together, jumping and turning in unison. Children gain an understanding of the importance of a healthy diet as they choose from a variety of nutritious foods such as breakfast before school of cereals, fresh fruit and toast and snacks after school of beans on toast or tortilla wraps with cheese and cucumber. Children help themselves to drinking water throughout the session and a wide range of fresh fruits such as plums, kiwi, strawberries, bananas and grapes attractively displayed to appeal to the children. Older children are aware of the benefits of eating fresh fruit as they talk about the need to eat five pieces of fruit each day to help keep healthy.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop an awareness of the importance of safety because staff set them clear guidelines, such as the need to be careful when using knives at snack time and the implications of not sitting appropriately on chairs. Children begin to take responsibility for their own safety as staff achieve a good balance between supervision and allowing children freedom in developing their own ideas as they play. Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised within the premises because staff make good use of risk assessment. However, similar measures to identify and minimise potential hazards are not always effectively applied in the outdoor area. Children are able to use good quality resources because they are monitored by staff to ensure they are safe and suitable for their needs. Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff have appropriate knowledge of child protection procedures.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and relaxed as they enjoy themselves in the club's welcoming environment. They have fun as they choose from a range of planned activities both indoors and outside. Children are able to take part in more energetic activities such as ball games, skipping and circle games outdoors or relax with quieter activities, for example, sand modelling or 'writing' with icing onto rice paper, listening to music and watching videos. Older children are absorbed in sustained role-play as they work as a group with deep concentration acting out their roles under the guidance of their 'leader' in their imaginary game of 'Dukie's cave'. Children learn about living things as they excitedly take part in bug hunts examining the beetles and ants they have found and care for the tomato seeds they have planted. However, the range of books and toys, particularly for younger children, is limited and does not provide children with sufficient choices so that they can develop their ideas during free play activities.

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

The provision is good.

Children learn to value and respect each other as they take turns and share during activities and work together effectively in group situations. They develop confidence and independence as they express their own needs and views and help with tasks, such as calling others in from outdoor play and clearing away their used plates and cups at snack time and helping to put away the toys. Children learn to appreciate our diverse society by using toys and play materials that reflect positive images of gender, culture and disability and tasting foods from other cultures at snack time. Children are polite and well behaved. They respond to the regular praise and clear guidelines set by the staff and learn what is expected of them. Children's care, welfare and development are promoted because the staff have developed friendly working relationships with parents and establish and exchange information about the care of the children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the effective organisation of staff, space and resources both inside the premises and in the outdoor area. This enables activities to be provided to meet the needs of children of varying age groups and with differing interests with appropriate levels of adult support. Children's care and enjoyment are promoted because the staff work well together as an effective team, although there are insufficient qualified staff. Children's care and welfare are safeguarded by clear and accurate documentation which is shared with parents when needed to ensure continuity of care. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

Not applicable

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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):

- make sure that children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised and appropriate steps are taken to minimise hazards in the outdoor area
- make sure that the equipment and toys are sufficiently varied to provide a full range of play opportunities for all children
- make sure there is a named deputy who is able to take charge in the absence of the manager and an action plan is developed detailing how the criterion for at least half of the staff to hold a level 2 qualification will be met and in what timescale.

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