



## The Haven

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY305522
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 August 2006
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<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?

The Haven Out of School club opened under its current private ownership in 2005. It operates from a mobile building situated within the grounds of Stilton Primary School. The club have use of the school playgrounds. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday during school term times from 08:00 to 09:00 and 15:15 to 18:00 and from 08:00 to 17:45 during school holidays.

There are currently 40 children on roll. Most of the children who attend the club also attend the primary school. The club is able to support children with special

educational needs and those who speak English as an additional language, but has none currently attending.

The group currently employs four staff, including the owner, who work with the children. One member of staff has a level 2 qualification and along with the owner is working towards a level 3 Playwork qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and well-being is being promoted; staff are trained in first aid which ensures that children receive appropriate care if they become ill or have an accident. Required parental permissions and record keeping systems are in place to support children's good health. Children learn about ways in which they can stay healthy and look after themselves, for example, they have helped to make a hand painting display to remind them of the importance of washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

Children benefit from fresh air daily as they play physical games on the school playground such as cricket, volley ball, badminton and tennis and as they take part in fun activities such as 'What's the time Mr Wolf?'. This enables children to release energy and have the opportunity to take part in team games which develop their social skills. Children are offered a variety of different fruit from the 'fruit bowl' after school as part of their snack, which encourages them to eat healthily. However, children attending the playscheme are only offered this option during the morning which limits their access to healthy foods. Information is gathered from parents about children's individual dietary requirements which ensures their needs are met.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment which is welcoming to children and parents. Appropriate organisation of the furniture and resources means that children can move around safely and freely. Children learn safe practices because staff provide explanations as to why, for example, they should not tip back on their chairs or help themselves to resources stored above the second shelf. This helps them develop their understanding of hazards and to take responsibility for themselves. Children's safety is enhanced by daily health and safety checks and staff's attention to ensuring that their hot drinks are kept within the kitchen area, which children cannot access. However, fire drills are not undertaken on a regular basis which means that not all children are aware of the procedure to follow in the event of an emergency evacuation of the premises. This potentially compromises their safety.

Children use an extensive range of developmentally appropriate resources which are cleaned and checked regularly to ensure that they are safe, clean and in good

condition. These are readily available to the children in easily accessible, labelled shelving or storage units, ensuring their ability to make independent choices is maximised. Children are protected as the staff have a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of their responsibilities in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed, enthusiastic and self-assured in the club's welcoming environment. They enjoy their time at the group and are able to relax or be active in accordance with their own needs and interests. They enjoy warm and positive relationships with the staff who offer good support, where appropriate, for example as they try to follow cross stitch templates. Staff praise and encourage children's efforts and achievements. This promotes children's confidence and self-esteem.

Children have good opportunities to broaden their experiences; they go on outings to places such as 'Big Sky' and Wicksteed Park in the school holidays. Children particularly enjoy timed sessions on the play station, playing 'Who wants to be a millionaire?' on the computer, with help from adults and other children, and taking part in 'bingo' games where there are small prizes to be won. Art and craft activities are very well resourced and popular with many children. For example, boys and girls enjoy designing and making their own fashionable necklaces and bracelets with attractive beads and initial letter tags.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern and staff provide all children with equality of opportunity and access to the group. Children take part in activities that help them develop a positive view of their local community and the wider world. Positive images on display help children learn about valuing and respecting similarities and differences. Children's work is displayed which gives children a sense of ownership and the room is well organised so that children can make independent choices and therefore meet their own needs and develop their interests.

Children's behaviour is generally good. They demonstrate an understanding of the 'rules' for good behaviour with the support of staff. They share and take turns with popular resources such as the computer and play station. Staff verbally share pertinent information with parents on a daily basis to ensure parents are kept informed about their child. Parents are provided with a parents' pack when they enrol their child at the club and receive newsletters each term to keep them up to date with club news. However, staff are not proactive in ensuring that all parents provide written consents for outings which potentially compromises children's care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff work well together to create an environment where children have fun through a wide range of interesting and worthwhile activities that promote positive outcomes for children. Sessions are generally child-led which gives children opportunities to relax and follow their own interests. Time and space is used well to meet children's needs. However, the organisation of afternoon playscheme sessions does not take account of children's differing dietary requirements.

Two members of staff, including the owner, are working towards a recognised qualification to ensure that they have the appropriate knowledge for their role. Although all current staff have been appropriately vetted, recruitment procedures are not sufficiently rigorous to ensure any new staff are suitable to work with children. For example, the owner has yet to register with one of the umbrella bodies now responsible for Criminal Records Bureau checks. Additionally, the system for communicating staff absence is not effective in ensuring that appropriate care is provided at all times. Most documentation is in place to underpin practice. Overall, the needs of the range of children are met.

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

At the last inspection the quality of care was judged as inadequate. The registered provider agreed to develop knowledge and understanding of the required documentation and to make it available for inspection at all times. A thorough review was undertaken of all supporting policies and record keeping systems to ensure that National Standards regulations are met. This has contributed to children's safety and care.

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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.
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<b>WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?</b>
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## **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):

- review the organisation of the playscheme afternoon sessions to ensure that children's individual dietary needs are met
- ensure that the emergency escape plan is practised regularly
- ensure that robust systems of staff recruitment and communicating staff absence are in place
- ensure that written consent for outings is obtained from all parents.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)