



Churchtown Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY244201
Inspection date	03 October 2006
Inspector	Patricia King
Setting Address	Darley Churchtown Primary School, Church Road, Darley Dale, Derbyshire, DE4 2GL
Telephone number	01629 732236
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Registered person	Church Town Out of School Club
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?

Churchtown Out of School Club opened in 2003. It operates from a designated classroom in Darley Churchtown Primary School. A maximum of 16 children may attend at any one time and there are currently 58 children from 4 years to 11 years on roll. The club is open 08.00 until 08.50 and 15.20 until 18.00 on school days and children attend a variety of sessions. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area. Children come from the surrounding community and are transported to other local schools. The club is able to support children with disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

Four staff work with the children. Of these, three have appropriate qualifications. Most of the staff work within the school during the day.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a well balanced range of activities which contribute to their overall health. They benefit from daily outdoor play, weather permitting, with opportunities for climbing, balancing, physical exercise and games using a good range of suitable equipment. Children are nourished at the setting by a light breakfast and nutritious snack, such as fruit, after school. Some children have their own snack provided by their parents. They have easy access to healthy drinks at all times which promotes their independence and opportunities for choice.

Children are encouraged to keep themselves healthy and keep the agreed rules for maintaining good individual standards of personal hygiene. They have independent self-care skills and eagerly describe why hand washing is necessary to prevent the spread of germs and cross-infection, for example, before eating and after using the toilet. Children routinely put their hands in front of their faces when coughing and sneezing and explain how this prevents the spread of germs and sickness to others. Good hygiene standards are demonstrated by the staff, such as wiping down tables before and after food and talking about what they are doing and why.

Staff have clear understanding of the comprehensive records and procedures in place to support the health and welfare of the children with regards to medication and individual needs. Clear information and policies inform parents that children must not attend when infectious and effective systems are in place to ensure that children receive appropriate treatment and support in the event of accidents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move freely and confidently within the familiar environment of their school. They have easy access to a wide range of quality, age appropriate, stimulating toys and resources to promote independence and choice. The environment is used creatively to display children's projects and art work which means they feel valued and develop their self-esteem.

Children are aware of, and maintain, rules they have agreed to promote their safety. For example, they wait in their classrooms to be escorted to the club by a staff member. Children are learning about keeping themselves safe because staff demonstrate good role models, talk about hazards and risks, and praise safe behaviour. This means that they have careful regard for safe behaviour and show concern for the safety of younger and less skilful children, such as when using tools and equipment in their activities.

Staff place strong emphasis upon safety in the environment and well-recorded risk assessments identify potential hazards and the action taken to minimise risks. There are effective systems to supervise the arrival, collection and departure of children and to ensure that children are collected by their parents or authorised adults, for example, using passwords to increase security.

Children are protected because staff have a sound knowledge of local child protection procedures. Staff have a clear understanding of how to record and report any concerns they may have.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children make choices from a range of well-planned and imaginatively resourced activities provided for their care and entertainment. They show interest and become actively involved in the stimulating activities prepared for their participation. For example, they thoroughly enjoyed making letter racks and decorating these with their own designs and patterns. When a child had his picture taken with his finished item he beamed with pride to show what he had made. Wednesday evenings are designated craft evenings and the children are eager to find out what they will be making each week. They enthusiastically made chocolate peppermint creams and decorated boxes imaginatively to put the sweet treats in.

Children are building upon and making positive relationships with others at the club and chat confidently whilst they play. Staff are particularly skilled at picking up and extending conversation. For example, children talked knowingly about a local landmark where filming is taking place for a television programme. This topic developed into discussion about the history of the place and who lived there and staff encouraged children to contribute their experiences of any visits they had made.

Children are exploring the wider world through art and craft activities which include opportunities to learn about and celebrate lifestyles and cultures. For example they created a collage of a fairground big dipper ride and filled the passenger seats with pictures of people from different countries and cultures. They are learning about the natural world around them and competitively searched for bugs, birds and creatures appearing with different seasons. Children have made a number of innovative decorations from every day items to depict the five senses. For example, brightly coloured gloves representing touch decorate a Christmas tree.

Staff know the individual children well and take care to establish all the necessary details to provide for their individual needs. This means that children are secure, confident and have positive self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the community in which they live and the wider world through an extremely well planned and organised range of activities and resources. They experience and celebrate diversity by recognising and exploring significant events and festivals in other cultures and act these out in their play. For example, children enjoyed celebrating Chinese year, finding out and learning about their birth year symbols. Children have confidence to take responsibility and play a productive part in the setting. For example, they have worked together with the adults to produce a behaviour code that supports the good behaviour and harmony of the group.

Children have positive self-esteem and display respect and regard for the differing levels of understanding and ability of all attending the group. For example, they enjoy group games such as "detective" and successfully include the youngest and oldest in their fun. Staff are able to describe positive ways to work in partnership with parents and others to promote the welfare and development of all children and an equipment budget has been set aside to support this inclusion.

Children's individual needs are effectively met by good communication with parents to recognise and record all the details necessary to establish individual requirements. However, information to parents does include how to access relevant details about any complaints received by the group which means that parents are not informed of this requirement. Children's daily attendance is discussed with parents at the end of each session and a newsletter, distributed each term, keeps parents informed and included in the care of their children. Parents describe their confidence in the club to care for their children by offering a safe and enjoyable experience.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Robust systems are in place for the recruitment, training and development of staff which ensures that all adults working with the children or having access to them are suitable to do so. Children are kept safe and their welfare is promoted at the setting because the manager and staff have knowledge and experience of childcare and play and have enthusiasm for their work with children. Good levels of adult support provides children with imaginative opportunities for their play. This means their enjoyment, self-esteem and safety is fostered effectively.

Comprehensive records and policies to support the safe and efficient management of the setting are in place and staff implement these well in daily practice and routines. For example, attendance records for staff, children and visitors are maintained vigilantly and include daily details of who is designated to collect each child from the club.

Space and resources are organised imaginatively and stimulating activities provide children with interesting and exciting experiences to broaden their overall development. Overall the provision 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 electric sockets accessible to children were made safe and that the child protection procedures include procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect made against a member of staff or volunteer. The safety and welfare of the children has been improved by the setting because they have taken appropriate actions to meet these recommendations.

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 that a record of all complaints is maintained and appropriate information from that record is shared with parents upon request.

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