



## Twiglets

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	106058
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 September 2006
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<b>Registered person</b>	Twiglets
<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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Twiglets After-School Club is run by a voluntary committee of parents. It was first registered in January 2000 and moved to its present location at the Topsham School in June 2001. The club has the use of the school library, a classroom, the school hall and grounds. It is registered to provide out-of-school care for 24 children aged from four to eight years, and accepts children aged up to 11 years. There are currently 40 children on roll, including 19 children aged under eight years of age.

Twiglets welcomes all pupils attending the Topsham School and is open on weekdays from 15:30 to 17:30, during term time. There are currently two members of

staff, and efforts are being made to recruit a third. Current staff are teaching assistants in the school and have relevant child care or playwork qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy plenty of outdoor play, giving them regular opportunities to be physically active. They use the extensive school grounds, to run freely, play ball games, use wheeled toys, or take part in energetic team games. They benefit from eating well-balanced snacks, including plenty of fruit, as well as brown toast and a variety of spreads. They sometimes enjoy multi-cultural foods, such as when they make and eat pizzas, or try tropical fruits. Children's special dietary needs are known and met, and they have plenty of fluids, as drinking water is always available, and drinks are offered at snack time.

Children receive good care when they are unwell or injured. Staff have undertaken recent first aid training and one has a current first aid qualification. Accidents are recorded and the information shared with parents, although records are not always signed by parents, and children's confidentiality is not always respected. Children are well protected from infection, as there are effective systems for ensuring that all surfaces are clean, especially before food is served. Children learn good hygiene routines, washing their hands appropriately at snack time, and after using the toilet.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a safe and secure environment. They use the facilities of a modern, well-equipped classroom, as well as other indoor and outdoor areas within the primary school, all of which are safe. Staff carry out daily checks of the premises before children arrive, to ensure, for example, that cooking equipment has not been left out, which could pose a risk to children. Security is good throughout the premises. The grounds are fully enclosed and there are two sets of gates, which prevent children leaving unnoticed and enable staff to monitor access by visitors. Doors are locked when not in use, to help provide a secure environment for children. Children choose from an adequate variety of toys, books, games and resources, which are in good condition and checked regularly for cleanliness and safety.

Children are safe in emergencies, as they regularly practise evacuation procedures, following the school's routines, so that all children know what to do. They are adequately protected from abuse or neglect, as staff have undertaken child protection training and have a satisfactory understanding of all issues and most procedures. The child protection policy lacks information about procedures to be followed, in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy attending the club and have plenty of choice of activities, at each session. They have daily opportunities to develop their creativity, in a good range of art and craft activities. For example, they use paint and glue to create pictures, or they make cards for special occasions. They use a variety of toys, books, games and resources, including construction kits, small world equipment, such as plastic insects, or toys for imaginative play, such as hairdressing models. Children enjoy playing table football or being physically active, in the large outdoor spaces. They play group or team games, or use ropes, balls, racquets and wheeled walkers, to develop their fitness and skills.

Sessions are carefully organised, to include a good range of activities, and children are purposefully engaged, throughout their time at the club. The programme sometimes includes themed weeks, such as 'airborne', 'under the sea' or circus skills, which are occasionally linked to school events or themes. Children are consulted about their preferences and constantly make choices about activities. They develop good relationships with staff, who successfully foster a relaxed atmosphere, and spend time talking and playing with them.

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

The provision is good.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. They willingly share resources, help with routines, such as tidying up, and treat each other with respect. Staff are very good role models, and children respond to their high expectations and positive approach to the management of behaviour. All children are welcomed and included, and staff are attentive to children's individual interests, as they plan activities and resources. There are no children with learning difficulties or disabilities on roll, but systems are in place to include and support those who may attend in the future. Good use is made of the local community, as visitors, such as a local police officer, are invited to attend. Children learn about different cultures, through weekly themes, such as about India or Hawaii.

Children enjoy consistent care, due to the staff's good communications with their parents and carers. Parents receive information about procedures and the daily routine, when children first attend, and policies are always available. Displays of children's work on the notice board provide further information, and the school newsletter includes the club's news and events. Parents are invited to be involved in the club's activities, by serving on the committee, and they exchange information daily with staff, at the end of sessions.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in safe, clean and spacious accommodation, where the space and resources are used effectively, to provide a wide variety of play opportunities. They enjoy the care of committed and competent staff, who regularly update their knowledge, by attending relevant training courses. Staff work closely with the committee, who offer support with administration and fundraising, for the benefit of the children. Ratios are good, enabling children to receive plenty of individual attention. The club meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Children's care is underpinned by all the required documentation, but policies and procedures are not regularly updated. The child protection policy is incomplete, the complaints procedure is out-of-date and accident records are not shared appropriately and confidentially with parents.

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

Since the last inspection, staff have improved children's protection from abuse or neglect, by attending relevant training, to update their understanding. However, they are still not confident about some procedures, and the child protection policy lacks information about these procedures.

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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## **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):

- improve children's safety by updating knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures, and including in the child protection policy procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against

staff

- make sure that children's care is underpinned by current policies and procedures, including a complaints procedure which matches current practice, and accident records which are signed by parents and shared confidentially.

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