



## Heathcote Before & After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY271080
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 October 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Rosemary Linda Tomkins
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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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Heathcote Before and After School Club opened in 2003 and operates from the main hall and one classroom within Richard Heathcote County Primary School, Alsagers Bank, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open from 07:30 to 09:00 and 15:15 to 18:00 during school term times and 07:30 to 18:00 during school holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 40 children aged from four to 12 years on roll. Children come from the local area. The club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs four members of staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Staff ensure individual medication records are maintained and they are aware of children's health needs. Written parental permission for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice is in place. This means that children will receive prompt medical attention in the event of a medical emergency. Children understand how to keep themselves healthy. They wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before snack and understand how germs spread and cross-contamination of infection occurs.

Children are able to help themselves to fresh drinking water throughout the session and staff provide cereal and toast for breakfast and cereal bars during the afternoon snack time. During the school holidays children bring their own packed lunches. Staff provide a choice of sugar free juice at snack and meal times and discuss a healthy lifestyle with the children as part of planned activities.

The large school hall provides space for freedom of movement and children have frequent opportunities to play in the adjoining playground and field with various pieces of outside equipment. There is space to run and enjoy fresh air and exercise.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and confident in the well organised club environment. Children understand how to keep each other safe because staff explain safety rules. One child aged five years said 'you have to ask to go to the toilet, so they know where you are'. Staff practise the emergency evacuation procedures with the children. This means that children are safe in an emergency situation.

Staff have identified potential risks and dangers and check the premises each session. For example, children understand that they must wait to be collected from the hall and signed-out by parents at the end of their session. In addition, the staff have a clear policy of pre-booked places and a system for checking that all children have arrived in the hall from their classrooms. Children are well supervised in the outside area, boundaries are clearly explained to children, setting a balance between freedom and safety. However, a door in the hall leading to the playground is not locked. This means that children are at risk from 'strangers' entering the building from the playground.

Children use a range of safe, good quality resources which they are able to choose from a varied selection provided each session. Staff encourage children to take responsibility for using equipment safely, monitoring condition and putting away.

Children are well protected. The manager is responsible for child protection and ensures staff fully understand their responsibility to follow procedures and protect children in their care.

The procedure and policy contains up to date contact details of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

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

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic and self-assured in the club, particularly when choosing to play imaginative games. A mixed age group of children said 'we are playing mums and step-mums, she is the shop keeper I'm cooking the tea'. Children are excited and enjoy their time at the club where they play with their friends and develop new skills. For example, learning the rules of complicated board games with staff. They relate well to staff and each other and play an active part in choosing and developing activities by freely expressing their likes and dislikes by completing children's questionnaires.

All children enjoy choosing from a range of activities such as construction, work-bench with tools and outdoor games. Children are absorbed and relaxed when working together and forming close relationships. They expect staff to join in with their activities and readily question and express their opinions such as negotiating which card game to play next.

Children are supported by the staff who encourage children to extend their experiences and are involved in listening and talking to them. They use the well-presented, good quality resources to meet the needs of all the children. Children include the staff in their play and conversations particularly during quiet indoor activities, such as snack time when they discuss their school day and share ideas.

All children enjoy regular outside play on the grass and purpose built adventure play area. They also use the large playground and small wooded space at the rear of the hall. The areas are secure and provide children with space to play team games, balance, swing and climb. This enhances children's sense of adventure as they discover their wider environment and new experiences.

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

The provision is good.

Children are developing mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. They increase self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions, choose their favourite activities and discuss their individual needs and preferences with staff. They have a strong sense of ownership and belonging to their club, they are settled and relaxed.

Children with learning difficulties are fully included and supported within the club. Currently there are no children with specific language requirements attending but staff have effective systems to ensure help and support.

Children are well behaved. They know what is expected of them because they helped to write the rules with staff and each other. Staff are good role models and take every opportunity to thank children for their help and good behaviour. They talk to the children throughout the

session to ensure they understand the behaviour boundaries and respond to requests to help one another. Children help tidy up and remember to say 'please and thank you.'

Relationships with parents are friendly. Staff greet parents warmly as they arrive to collect their children and make time to talk and share information. Parents are provided with a Parent Pack which includes the policies, procedures, operational details and place booking forms. There is a clear complaints policy and procedure for parents with the regulator's contact details. This means that parents are provided with sufficient accurate information to make a complaint. Staff make parents welcome and offer flexible care. They encourage them to share home information on their children and also express their expectations of the club in questionnaires. This ensures children have their individual needs met.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by qualified staff who have knowledge and experience of how to promote the care and well-being of children. Staff enthusiastically attend training to increase and extend their skills. For example, a short course on Autism. The manager uses effective recruitment, vetting and induction procedures to ensure staff are aware of the operational policies within the club. This ensures children are provided with appropriate activities to promote their health, safety and enjoyment.

Good teamwork makes sure staff work well together to promote children's achievements. Activities both inside and outside are organised with high staffing levels to ensure children are safe and supported.

Planned activities allow children to be grouped according to their individual likes and dislikes. Staff have agreed security arrangements for the arrival and departure of children which are discussed with children and parents. The registration certificate is prominently displayed so that parents are aware of the total registered numbers of the club.

There is clear floor space for indoor group games and physical exercise. The outdoor space is utilized to maximise play opportunities for children. All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and are frequently under review and update. The out of school club meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the provider was asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice; and to ensure that the staff induction programme includes all the required elements.

The provider has increased the range of activities and resources to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice by obtaining reference books, reading books, play figures and dolls with positive images of minority groups. In addition, the children benefit and widen their understanding through planned art activities and celebrations of other cultures.

There is a comprehensive staff induction policy and procedure which includes staff signatures and ensures staff understand the health and safety and child protection procedures during their first week of employment.

### **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 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 the outside door is secure during each session.

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)