



Barnack School "Home From Home" Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256738
Inspection date	28 June 2005
Inspector	Parveen Ashraf
Setting Address	Barnack C of E School, School Road, Barnack, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 3DZ
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Registered person	Barnack School "Home fromHome" 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Barnack Home-from-Home out of school club operates from a mobile classroom in the grounds of Barnack Primary School, in the village of Barnack, near Stamford. Times of opening are 08:00 to 09:00 and 15:00 to 18:00, term-time only.

The provision is registered to provide care for 24 children aged between 3 and 11 years, however, it is the group's policy not to take children until the age of 4 years. Currently there are 58 children on roll. The club is run by a suitably qualified manager. There are currently four members of staff, which includes voluntary staff.

Two permanent staff, and parents, act as supply staff. The out of school club works closely with Barnack Primary School and receives support from the headmaster.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health within the setting is supported appropriately by staff who are aware of the out of school club's health and hygiene procedures. A low-level poster, which is displayed in the toilet area, encourages children to wash their hands after using the toilet, helping them to learn about personal hygiene. Accidents and incidents are recorded correctly. However, the procedure needs reviewing to ensure confidentiality of children's information.

Although children are provided with the opportunity to have a snack, they are not consistently given a healthy option, as they are allowed to eat a variety of biscuits on a frequent basis. Some children are able to have snacks provided by their parents, if they are hungry, giving them greater opportunity to enjoy healthy snack options. Children are able help themselves to drinks of sugar-free juice and water, as and when required, encouraging them to develop their independence.

Children enjoy physical activities both indoors and outdoors. They are able to participate in ball games and cricket in the playground, developing their physical and co-ordination skills. Space in the classroom is adapted to accommodate the children's imagination, for example, children are allowed to clear chairs away, and re-arrange the tables, to make dens with materials that staff provide.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for as staff risk assess the premises before the session. Children learn about safety in an emergency situation as they practise the fire safety procedure. However, there are several safety issues that need to be improved. Children are not adequately supervised as they leave school and join the out of school club which compromises their safety. The premises are not secure: the outdoor play area is enclosed, but the gates can be easily opened by children; in warmer weather both doors are kept open, allowing children to leave the classroom unsupervised; and a suitable method to maintain an appropriate temperature needs to be implemented, as presently, the low-level fan is a potential danger to young children.

Toys and equipment are safe and children are able to help themselves to some resources, stored at low-level, encouraging independence. The child protection policy contains all necessary information to help protect children, but needs to be amended to ensure that the information relates specifically to the needs of the out of school club.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is inadequate.

Children are able to occupy themselves more productively as the out of school club has increased the range of planned activities they provide. However, children are able to take part in a limited range of activities that help to develop their social and imaginative skills. These include collage-making, cooking, computer games, snooker and outdoor games. However, there are not enough play opportunities that interest, or challenge, older children who become bored by the activities on offer to them.

Children are supported, during their play, by staff who take time listen to them to find out about what kind of day they have had at school. They approach staff with ease as staff are friendly, and have a good relationship with the children. However, staff do not encourage children to take responsibility for themselves and tidy away equipment following an activity.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed by the out of school club and are respected, and valued, as individuals. Policies for equal opportunities and special needs are implemented. Staff work with the parents, and children with special needs are supported, to help them progress. Children behave well, play together, share and take turns. They know what is expected of them and are aware of the behaviour boundaries imposed by the out of school club. Children are praised by staff at their level of understanding which, in turn, raises their self-esteem and confidence.

Relationships with parents are friendly. Staff share information verbally with parents, through informal discussions at collections times, keeping them apprised of their child's day. However, the parent leaflet is very basic, and does not include some policies and procedures. They are not fully informed about the standard of care that the out of school club provides for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are able to enjoy the freedom of being able to choose between indoor and outdoor play as the premises are organised to make this possible. Their care is enhanced as both permanent members of staff have completed several short courses to help them to carry out their roles in the out of school club. Staff work well together but there is limited support from the committee. There are no suitable long term contingency plans to cover staff absences, in order to help the out of school club maintain ratios, which impacts negatively on the continuity of care for the children. Resources need to be re-organised in an orderly way, to create a more stimulating environment, where children take responsibility for putting things back in their correct place.

Records, policies and procedures do not reflect the current practice of the out of school club. They need to be reviewed, and adapted, to meet the regulatory requirements pertaining to the club. Policies are not shared with parents and there is limited information about the service provided or children's activities. The provision does not effectively use the policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of children.

Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the group were given recommendations which relate to staying safe. The group were asked to carry out a risk assessment, improve fire safety and put a complaints procedure in place. A risk assessment has been carried out. The fire safety procedure is now in place and is practised, helping children to stay safe. The complaints procedure is displayed on the parents' notice board informing parents of the procedure if they wish to complain.

The out of school club were also given a recommendation to plan a variety of different activities for children. They are now providing some activities but need to review their plans to ensure that older children remain interested; an action has been given in respect of this.

The group were also given a recommendation with regard to organisation to ensure that there are two qualified staff on the premises. There are now two qualified members of staff working at the out of school club, which has a positive impact on the children that attend.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1st April 2004 Ofsted has not received any complaints about this provider.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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, the registered person **must** take the

following actions:

- ensure that children under 8 are escorted to school when breakfast session ends and from school to the after school club at the end of the school day.
- plan and provide a range of stimulating activities to suit the children's age, abilities and interests.
- provide a safe alternative for ventilation, instead of the low-level fan.
- review and adapt policies and procedures to reflect the needs and practices of the out of school club, including uncollected child policy.
- ensure that records for staff/volunteers and committee members are on the premises, made readily available for inspection and parents.

These actions are set out in a **notice of action to improve** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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