



Aspatria

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY291675
Inspection date	23 August 2005
Inspector	Stephen Andrew Blake
Setting Address	St Kentigens Church Hall, Queen Street, Aspatria, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 3DQ
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	Barnado's
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?

Aspatria Holiday Play Scheme has been established for nine months and is located within St Kentigens Church Hall in the centre of Aspatria. The scheme serves children attending Richmond Street Primary School in Aspatria but is also open to children referred from other areas.

The holiday play scheme is registered to provide out of school care for 26 children aged from five to eight years. Children over eight years also attend and these are counted within the maximum number. There are currently 35 children on roll. The setting supports three children with special needs. There are no children for whom

English is an additional language. The holiday play scheme operates on Monday and Tuesday 13.30 – 15.30 each week throughout each school holiday.

Children attending have access to the main hall, kitchen area, toilets, corridor and the front outdoor play area.

Aspatia Holiday Play Scheme is managed by Barnado's and a committee supports the operation of the scheme. There are two staff employed at the scheme and they hold appropriate child care qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of age appropriate and well planned activities that contribute to their good health for example, when using the indoor hall for running, skipping, moving under and around and using a range of good craft and puzzle activities to develop their fine motor skills. Children are aware of their health and bodily needs, for example, knowing when they are tired after a physical activity and when asking for drinks when thirsty. This helps children to stay healthy.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and well maintained environment. They are developing an appropriate understanding of good hygiene through the staff's encouragement and modelling of good practice. For example, when cleaning tables before use at snack time and when encouraging children to wash their hands after using the toilet and before handling food. Staff have a good understanding of health and hygiene, for example, when wearing disposable gloves to lead the biscuit decorating activity, and this enables children to stay healthy. These procedures are effectively reflected within the scheme's written policies and procedures.

Food and snacks are stored appropriately and staff record and understand children's individual dietary needs. This helps children to stay healthy.

Children help themselves to easily accessible drinking water throughout the session and enjoy a range of healthy snacks, for example, apples, oranges, melons and toast. This helps children to stay healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a spacious environment where most risks are identified and minimised for example, through the use of a regular risk assessment. Staff visually check the premises daily and take action to ensure that other users of the hall have not inadvertently exposed children to hazards, for example by making the stacked chairs inaccessible. This helps children to stay safe. The grass in the front garden has not been cut this year and this presents a tripping risk to children. Staff effectively organise the available space to provide opportunities for children to

participate in a range of planned activities without impacting on others, for example, children choosing to play ball can do so away from children engaged in craft activities. This helps children to stay safe.

Children independently access a range of good quality toys and equipment which meets safety standards. Staff monitor all children's choice of toys and activities to ensure that they are appropriate to their stage of development. Staff have effective written policies and procedures to ensure that children are safeguarded for example, in behaviour management and for outings. There are no clearly defined written procedures displayed for emergency evacuation. Staff hold valid first aid certificates and this helps children to stay safe. Staff have a good understanding of the Area Child Protection Committee procedures and this also helps to ensure that children stay safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle quickly on arrival and confidently engage in a range of planned and prepared activities. Children relate well to each other and socialise through a good range of play opportunities and outings for example, during ball games, crafts, sharing board games, enjoying snacks together and a visit to Mabie farm. Staff carefully monitor children's chosen activities and are vigilant towards children in need of support for example, guiding a child to engage in an activity when struggling to choose. Children have a good relationship with staff and respond warmly to them, for example, by proudly showing them their decorated biscuits. Children develop independence as they choose between a variety of accessible resources which appeal to all. Children enjoy and respond to staff questions for example, when discussing what they like to do. This provides children of all abilities with opportunities to enjoy and achieve.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff provide children with a range of resources and activities that promote a positive view of the wider world for example, through accessible books and puzzles. This develops their awareness of diversity and understanding of others. Children learn about their local community as they visit places of interest for example, Mabie Farm and receive visits from parents.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are met well as they follow their normal daily routine in accordance with discussions with their parents. Children enjoy good relationships with each other and with staff. They play harmoniously together and are well behaved, for example, when sharing craft resources and waiting patiently for their turn to decorate their biscuit. Staff employ age appropriate and sensitive behaviour management strategies in consultation with parents. Children have time to relax as well as be active. Children respond well in painting, movement and spoken words to what they see, hear, taste and feel.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed and at ease in the generally well organised environment. This means that children are confident to initiate and extend their own play and experiences. Policies and procedures are well written and implemented effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. They are readily accessible to parents to keep them well informed about the scheme and their child's activities. The system for exchanging information with parents is effective. This contributes to continuity of the children's care. Daily record sheets of adult and child attendance are maintained, although one of these is not dated. Planning systems are monitored and adapted to keep children safe and to enable them to make good progress in all areas of their development. Overall, the provision meets the needs of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 hazards to children on the premises, both inside and outside, are minimised RE: the long grass in the outside area
- ensure there are clearly defined written procedures for emergency evacuation of the building and that these are known by all staff
- ensure that the daily record of the names of the children looked after on the premises, their hours of attendance and the names of the persons who looked after them, is dated.

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