



Time Out After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256837
Inspection date	01 November 2006
Inspector	Carly Mooney
Setting Address	Southfields Junior School, Southfields Avenue, Stanground, Peterborough, Cambs, PE2 8PU
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Registered person	Time Out After School Club Committee
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Time Out After School Club has been registered since 1995. It operates from several rooms within Southfields Infant and Junior Schools, Stanground, Peterborough. Time Out After School Club serves the local community. A maximum of 50 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 07:50 to 09:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00. During school holidays opening times are from 08:00 to 18:00. All children share access to secure enclosed outdoor play areas.

There are currently 66 children aged from three to under eight years on roll. The club also looks after children up to the age of 11. The club is able to support children with learning difficulties and those who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs eight staff. Of these seven hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from within the school and from an advisor at the Peterborough Children's Strategic Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff have developed clear policies in relation to health, medication and illness and effectively use these in their practice to meet children's needs. Most staff are first aid trained and are spread evenly over the two base rooms in order to be able to deal with accidents appropriately. The required accident and medication recording is completed and maintained well to fully safeguard children's medical welfare. Children are following basic hygiene procedures to minimise the spread of germs. Anti-bacterial evaporating hand wash is used in the junior room and children are aware of the need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet. However, in the infants' room children are using the same bowl of water to dip their hands into prior to snack which does not help to prevent cross-contamination. Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment and staff follow effective hygiene procedures, such as washing their hands prior to serving food. Four staff members hold basic food hygiene certificates.

Children are provided with a varied range of well balanced and nutritious food which contributes to a healthy diet. Fruit is offered daily for children to help themselves and children enjoy snacks, such as tea cakes, scones or crackers with cheese. Children sit down together with staff and use the time as a social gathering to chat about their day at school or home life. They independently pour their own drinks and spread the butter on the crackers. All staff are aware of children with allergies which are recorded together for easy access to the information, ensuring they meet children's individual health needs.

Outside play is available to all children on a daily basis where they have use of the school playgrounds and small play park. Children are encouraged to participate in physical exercise both indoors or outdoors and use the school halls to run around or play ball games. Older children have been introduced to children's yoga which they are eager to try and younger children love dancing to music at the end of a busy school day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff organise both play rooms well so that they are welcoming for children. Activities are set out attractively on arrival to motivate and interest them after the school day. They can also independently select resources to fulfil their own interests and needs. Toys and resources are checked daily for breakages and a cleaning rota is in place to ensure they are always suitable to use.

Safety conscious staff ensure procedures are in place to enable children to play safely and freely. Basic risk assessments are carried out to identify and minimise hazards. However, more precise daily check lists are in place and mainly cover the rooms and outside area, as they are both used by other people during the day. Fire drills are regularly practised and recorded with the children and the premises are very secure. Parents and visitors are unable to enter without a member of staff letting them in. Children use a bean bag system when going to the toilet as these are situated outside the rooms and enables staff to know when they are visiting them.

Activities are in place which help children learn about keeping themselves safe, such as talking about and designing firework safety posters to display.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff have a good understanding of their role in child protection and recognise their responsibility to protect children in their care. They are guided by a comprehensive child protection policy which they are confident to follow and most staff have attended training to update their knowledge. Children are well protected from the risk of harm, as they are never left alone with people who have not been vetted or released to adults the club have no prior knowledge of.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic when attending and feel happy and settled in the club's welcoming environment. They are greeted warmly by staff, who play a large part in helping children feel relaxed and self-assured through their sensitive and caring approach. A relaxed unstructured atmosphere enables children to unwind after a day at school. They arrive confidently showing that they are settled and familiar with the routine, such as placing their coats and bags in the allocated space and taking off their shoes. Older children have time to complete homework at a designated homework table with added support from staff if needed.

Staff are fully involved in children's play and lead activities, such as children's yoga with enthusiasm. They know individual children well and provide play opportunities that children are interested in and motivated by, such as the play station challenge or making firework pictures. Planning is in place based around themes, such as autumn and healthy eating to develop children's learning. Children's pictures are attractively displayed where possible and therefore helps children gain a sense of belonging. A comfy seating area in the infants' room allows children to rest quietly if they do not wish to be active. Children play well together in small groups and enjoy imaginary play as they dress up in Halloween costumes and move around the room pretending to be a dog.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident to attend the club and have a clear sense of belonging. All children are fully welcomed and staff value and respect their individuality. Children learn social skills and enjoy being with and talking to adults and other children. Children are gaining an understanding about the wider world and community through celebrations of festivals, such as Diwali. Staff have built upon their resources which show positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability and aim to make further progress with visual displays and posters.

Generally children behave well as they are occupied at all times by the activities on offer. Those children with behavioural difficulties receive adequate support and staff work closely with parents to try and resolve issues. A 'reflective' table has been introduced in the juniors to enable children to think and reflect on their behaviour and for staff to help children gain an understanding of right and wrong through discussion. Older children nominate each other for

'star of the week', for example when they have been shown kindness or been helpful to others. This along with praise and encouragement from staff when they do well helps to raise confidence and build their self-esteem.

Positive relationships between parents and staff have formed which benefits the children's time at the club. Staff share information verbally on a daily basis to ensure that parents are kept informed about their child's day. Regular newsletters and the club's website keep parents updated with information about the club and activities their child will be participating in. The club's policies and procedures are shared with parents in a detailed parents' pack.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff are mindful of organising the children's environment in an effective way so that they feel comfortable and at ease when attending. The sensible lay out of the rooms, halls and use of the outdoor areas maximises all available play space for children. They are able to move freely and choose where they would like to play, helping to encourage their confidence and independent skills. Management ensure that all staff are appropriately qualified and vetted to be able to care for children appropriately. A thorough induction period is in place to ensure new staff are familiar with policies, procedures and routines within the setting.

Relevant documentation is in place and kept up to date. However, amendments are required to the daily registers to ensure they record accurate attendance of children who attend after school club's and arrive late at the setting and for all staff. As a consequence of not recording this information children's and staff's welfare is not always fully protected. Confidentiality is maintained at all times as records are stored in locked cupboards during the day when rooms are used by other people.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider received seven actions. Four of these related to documentation which has now been either amended or put in place. Resources have been purchased to reflect positive images of other cultures and risk assessments as well as daily checks of the premises are carried out. Staff are aware that they need to inform Ofsted of any significant events. All actions have been adequately addressed and this has a positive impact of the health, care and safety of the children.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- review the current system in place for hand washing in the infants' room to ensure the spread of germs is prevented
- ensure an accurate attendance record is kept of all children and staff.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk