



Culvers House Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY235215
Inspection date	26 September 2006
Inspector	Sarah Street
Setting Address	Culvers Community Room, Orchard Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 4JH
Telephone number	0208 404 1991
E-mail	
Registered person	London Borough of Sutton Play Service
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?

Culvers House Out of School Club is run by the London Borough of Sutton Play Services. It opened in 2002 and operates from the community room of Culvers House School. It is situated in the grounds of the school in Mitcham Junction, Surrey. The club runs an after school club and holiday club. The after school club is open each week day during school term time from 15.00 to 17.45. During the school holidays the club runs from 08.45 to 17.45. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

A maximum of 26 children may attend the club at any one time. There are currently 35 children aged from four to under eight years on roll. Children over the age of eight also attend. Children come from a wide catchment area. The club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The club employs four members of staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications.

At this inspection only the after school club was inspected.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children begin to learn about keeping healthy as staff regularly prompt them to wash their hands. For example, when a child touches their shoes before snack time staff send them to the bathroom to wash their hands again, explaining why they need to do this. However, children cannot always effectively wash their hands as soap and paper towels are only available in one of the toilets.

Clear systems ensure that all staff know which children require long term medication as the child's photograph is attached to the consent form. Staff deal calmly and effectively with any accidents and this helps to reassure children. Current first aid training and well stocked first aid boxes ensure that children receive prompt and appropriate attention. However, staff do not ensure that parents always sign accident records. This means that parents are not always aware of the need to watch for any further symptoms which may develop.

Children do not become thirsty as they are able to access drinks when they need them. Recent changes to the menus mean that children will develop their understanding of healthy eating.

Children have regular access to fresh air as good use is made of the outside area and children often choose to play outside. Outings to other settings run by the service enable children to use climbing equipment. This enables them to develop their climbing and balance skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in safe premises as there are effective systems to check the equipment and premises before the children arrive. Clear, written risk assessments demonstrate that staff can highlight risks and take effective action to minimise them. Children generally move safely and freely as staff are vigilant when caring for them. However, the main door is open at the end of the day and when the room becomes warm. As a result unknown adults can enter the building unchallenged and children can leave unsupervised as staff are not always near to the door.

Children play in clean premises. They have access to a good range of toys and equipment which are plentiful and in good condition.

Staff are able to protect children from possible abuse as they have a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. They are aware of their responsibility to inform managers when they have concerns. Managers fully understand their role to contact the relevant agencies. The accessible referral details mean this can take place without delay.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children quickly settle to play as the room looks inviting. Staff prepare the room with a varied range of activities before the children arrive. These include games, books, puzzles, art activities, construction toys and table tennis. Staff help the children to settle as they warmly greet them and involve themselves in the children's play. For example, a staff member joins in with the drawing activity while another staff member organises football outside.

Children and staff have good relationships. Staff are interested in what the children do and the children are confident to approach staff. For example, a child shows a staff member the model she has made and the staff member responds with warmth and enthusiasm. When children ask a staff member to join in with table tennis they respond enthusiastically.

Staff plan a varied range of activities which are suitable for all the children and interest them. The use of themes enables staff to include a range of activities. For example, during 'time to get messy' the children participate in hand and foot painting, straw and bubble blowing and use play dough. During 'sunshine and showers' the children make sun hats and sun glasses and eat strawberries and cream.

Children are obviously happy and state they enjoy attending.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are all given the opportunity to participate as staff monitor popular activities and ensure all children take part. Children develop their understanding of equality as staff calmly challenge any stereotypical comments. For example, a child states that a girl cannot play football because of her gender. Staff promptly discuss this with the group reminding them that any one can play. The setting is able to support children with special needs as staff seek clear information about the child before they start.

Children behave well and staff are positive role models who deal calmly and fairly with any incidents. Children respond well to the boundaries. For example, when the children become noisy after tea the staff member raises her voice slightly and the children quickly quieten down.

A good verbal exchange of information takes place at the end of the day which ensures parents know how their child has been. Parents do not know who to complain to if they cannot resolve a complaint with the setting. The complaints procedure does not include the name and address of the regulator. Parents state they are very happy with the setting and find the support that staff provide very valuable.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff work well as a team communicating effectively to meet the children's needs. Clear recruitment procedures means that staff working with the children are suitable to do so. For

example, staff do not work in the setting unless they have a clear check from the Criminal Record Bureau. The majority of staff have childcare qualifications. The current manager does not have a level three qualification but is working towards one. Staff keep up to date with childcare knowledge as they regularly attend courses.

Most paperwork which contributes to children's health, safety and well being is in place. However, staff do not record the arrival times of the children in the after school club. This means they cannot demonstrate when they take responsibility for the children. Staff cannot easily find the fire drill record and some of the policies. This means that not all policies are available for the parents and staff. The public liability certificate which is on display is out of date.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The setting have addressed some of the issues from the last inspection but some remain outstanding. There are now staff members with current first aid certificates. This means staff have up to date information regarding the management of accidents. Parents now receive information about the child protection procedures before their child starts. The written equal opportunities policy is now consistent with current legislation but staff are not able to easily locate this. The previous manager who obtained a level three qualification has now left and the new manager is working towards one. The setting still need to record the arrival times of children in the after school club.

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):

- record the arrival times of children in the after school club

- submit an action plan stating when the manager will hold a level three qualification
- ensure parents sign all accident entries which relate to their child
- ensure parents have access to all the policies and procedures and that the complaints procedure includes the name and address of the regulator
- demonstrate that public liability insurance is in place
- ensure that children can always effectively wash their hands.

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