



Dunalley After School & Breakfast Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	511759
Inspection date	13 September 2006
Inspector	Angela Cole
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Registered person	Dunalley After School & Breakfast 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Dunalley After School and Breakfast Club opened in 2000 and is run by a voluntary management committee made up of parents of children at the pre-school and members of the local community. The club operates from one base room within Dunalley Primary School that is located to the north of Cheltenham town centre in Gloucestershire. The club have shared use of the computer room and school hall. There is an enclosed, hard-surfaced play area, playing field and climbing area for outdoor play. Children from the age of four years to 11 years of age attend the setting. The club is used mainly by children attending the school and is also open to the local community on a pre-booking basis.

The club is registered for a maximum of 24 children at any one time. There are currently 31 children aged from four years to under eight years on roll. The club is open each weekday during school terms from 08.00 to 08.45 and 15.15 to 18.00 and during school holidays from 08.00 to 18.00.

The club employs five members of staff. Of these, four staff hold appropriate early years and teaching qualifications and two are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy physical exercise and play outside in the fresh air. They learn about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle as they join in free play and some organised activities including games with a parachute. Children are independent in some self-care skills such as organising their belongings.

The children are cared for in clean premises where they learn the importance of hygiene and personal care through established routines. Children are effectively cared for when they are unwell which helps them feel secure and comfortable. Staff are aware of the need to have written consent in place from parents to allow emergency treatment. They maintain signed records of accidents and medication to ensure the children's medical needs are met.

Children understand the importance of taking regular drinks as a way of maintaining their health. They gain less understanding of the value of good nutrition as they select foods such as sweet tarts and spreads alongside the nourishing fruit available. Staff consult the children so their special dietary requirements are met to ensure they remain healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a safe environment at the school. Staff check the premises informally each session and previously written risk assessment includes sufficient detail so children are safe when included in activities. The children arrive and leave safely as the premises are secure.

During free play times, the children independently select activities from a suitable range of good quality toys and equipment that meet safety standards. Children hear some reminders to think about their own and other's safety. For example, they are required to wait until an outside game finishes before playing on the scooters. Emergency procedures are not practised sufficiently often for all staff and children to know how to respond during club activities in different circumstances.

Children's welfare and safety is satisfactorily promoted through the staff's growing knowledge and understanding of relevant issues and procedures. For example, some staff hold current child protection certificates and they have access to the recently revised policy that contains local child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children take time to relax in the current routine. When play begins, they enjoy the activities that are self-chosen. The majority of the planning is currently devised by the adults. This means that children sometimes have only a short time in which to decide whether they wish to join an activity such as an outing to collect Autumnal treasures. The plans include a satisfactory range and balance of activities which has the potential to help children to make progress in the areas of development.

Children are involved in an appropriate range of activities that support their language. For example, writing and drawing materials are set out and books are freely available. The children develop mathematical thinking as they sort items such as cars and play table games. They use their imagination appropriately in small-world and construction play and the role play and dressing up are particular favourites. Some crafts are available including paint for printing with leaves collected by the children.

At the start of the session, the adults ask the children to sit and wait for others to arrive at the club before they are served with their snack. This means that some children are not able immediately able to relax and relate well to the adults and other children. The children respond to staff who lead physical games and help them if they require assistance. The staff are interested in what children wish to tell them and ask some questions to make them think, for example, about what has happened during their day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children respond to the familiar surroundings and feel comfortable with the staff they know well. After the initial snack, they make their choices of activity known and fetch their own items from storage. The children show pride in items they have made for the club such as the screen with their names and hand prints. The staff ensure that resources and activities positively represent children who attend as well as individuals from the wider community. This is achieved through posters and themes such as 'Flags' and 'The jungle' that help children develop a positive attitude to others.

The established staff know the children as individuals and new families are invited to come on visits prior to starting at the club so their requirements are shared. Those with additional needs are appropriately included in the setting and supported in liaison with their parents and school staff. Children are satisfactorily supported to behave through reminders of the staff's expectations and agreed systems of management and encouragement through praise.

The staff obtain sufficient information from new parents so that children are cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes. Families are satisfactorily informed about the care through a parents' notice board and occasional newsletters. Some parents are greeted at each session to make them feel welcome. Family members come into the setting to bring and collect their children so they see some of the activities and are able to talk about these to foster the children's interests.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Ofsted is satisfactorily kept informed of changes within the setting. The systems for appointing and vetting staff are sound with informal induction to ensure their training needs are met. There is an action plan in place for the playleader to gain an appropriate qualification.

All legally required documentation is in place to ensure the well-being of the children. The policies for the club have recently been revised and extended to include the necessary aspects and procedures. The risk assessment is comprehensive and current staff intend to review this, including the implementation and recording of fire drills to foster the children's safety. Children's personal documents are kept confidential and secure in lockable storage.

The operational plan is satisfactory under the newly appointed playleader. Sufficient cover is available for absences and a deputy is to be appointed. The use of space is satisfactory though the adjacent, extensive outside area is not divided so children are engaged in different activities at the same time. The adult-child ratio is appropriate and staff make sure that children are supervised at all times for their welfare. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous care inspection required the setting to devise procedures to follow if a child is not collected or lost and recommended that staff improved their knowledge and awareness of child protection issues. The required policies are now in place to support the safety of the children. Staff have a satisfactory awareness of child protection issues and procedures to follow if there is a concern or if an allegation of abuse is made. Staff have the local guidelines to hand and have booked on training courses. These actions have improved the children's safety.

The previous care inspection also recommended that the setting improved the registration, accident and medication records. Staff now maintain accurate records of attendance for children and all persons who look after them. They make sure that accident and medication records are shared and signed by parents. These actions have improved the setting's organisation to foster the children's welfare and support the continuity of their care between home and the 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 the 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):

- carry out fire drills periodically and record the details including any problems and how these were resolved
- increase children's participation in the routines and planning of the activity programme to meet the needs of all who attend and support them to relate well to other children and adults in the group.

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