



Fairfield Fun Factory

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY289372
Inspection date	05 October 2006
Inspector	Wendy Brooks
Setting Address	Fairfield Infant School, Peelhouse Lane, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 6TH
Telephone number	0151 424 4879 or 07940190655
E-mail	
Registered person	Fairfield Fun Factory
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?

Fairfield Fun Factory Out of School Club was open for two years, but re-registered in June 2004 following a change in the registered provider. The club operates from the main hall of Fairfield Infant School located in Widnes, Cheshire. Most activities take place in the school hall, with access to kitchen and toilet facilities, the library, art room, computer room, reception practical area and the school grounds for outside play. The club is run by a committee and opens each week day, from 08.00 until 09.00 and 14.50 until 18.00 during term time and 08.00 until 18.00 during school holidays.

The club is registered to care for a maximum of 50 children at any one time and there are currently 77 children aged from four to 11 years on roll who attend the out of school provision at different times. There are 42 children on roll who attend the holiday club. Children attend from Fairfield school and the surrounding areas. The club supports a small number of children with special needs.

The club employs seven staff including the Manager, two of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level three and the remaining staff are qualified at level two, with several members working towards level three.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a healthy environment because staff follow hygiene procedures and help children to learn how to keep themselves healthy. Before snack time all children visit the toilets to wash their hands and understand the importance of preventing germs from spreading. Areas in which children are cared for are maintained as part of the school premises which means that they are kept clean and suitable for children's use.

Accident records are maintained accurately and confidentially and children's medical needs are discussed with parents. No medication has been administered to date, although there is no record available should this be required in the future. Parents are aware that sick children will not be cared for which means that children are protected from cross infection as much as possible. Details of children's allergies are discussed with parents and all staff are made aware of special requirements.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities and outdoor play on a regular basis. When weather permits, children can choose from wheeled toys, some climbing equipment and other games within a secure outside area. Activities, such as pool and large group games are provided regularly to ensure that children are able to develop their physical skills when they cannot use the outdoor area. Children are able to sit quietly as they read books or chat to friends and relax on floor mats and cushions. This means they are able to be quiet or active depending on their individual needs or interests.

Children are well nourished during their time at the out of school provision because staff provide healthy snacks which appeal to all. Children attending the breakfast club are offered a choice of cereals and toast, and children at the after school group are provided with a variety of healthy snacks throughout the week, such as mixed fruit salad. Drinks of fruit juice are provided and children have independent access to drinking water for most of the session. Healthy eating is encouraged at all times within the out of school provision.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe during their time at the out of school provision because staff take steps to ensure that risks have been identified and minimised. Daily checks of all areas used by children are carried out which means that children can move around safely. Staff carry mobile phones at all times so that parents always have a point of contact and staff have access to phones in an emergency.

Children are escorted to the separate areas used for various activities and when using the toilets due to their location within the building. The premises are kept secure and staff allow parents into the setting when bringing and collecting children. A visitors record is in place, however, this is not always completed accurately.

Children begin to learn about keeping themselves safe, for example, they understand why it is important to be quiet while the register is taken so staff know exactly who is present. Visits from local fire officers have helped children to learn about fire safety, and practise fire drills have been carried out with the children so they have a basic understanding of what to do in an emergency. However, these practises are infrequent and records have not been maintained.

Children's welfare is maintained because the manager has attended a recent safeguarding children course and has ensured that all staff are aware of the procedures to follow in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines, should they have any concerns. Appropriate government documentation is in place and a written child protection policy. However, the policy does not state who is the named person responsible for children's welfare or what procedure is to be followed should an allegation be made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a wide range of interesting and varied activities to suit all ages, interests and levels of development. Staff have developed play plans that are displayed for children and parents to see. Children are grouped together for set activities each day and staff ensure activities are varied by operating on a three week rotation system.

Children spend their time purposely at the out of school provision and can choose from a selection of independent and guided activities. Table top games and puzzles, construction equipment, a reading area and drawing materials are set up so that children have something to choose from as they arrive at the after school group.

Children enjoy a whole group quiz led by staff, where children are encouraged to develop their knowledge and learn to work as part of a team. Following this, children can choose to take part in an activity guided by a member of staff in a separate area or select from the independent activities available in the main hall. For example, children in the art room enjoy making cards, drawing pictures and creating animals from origami with support from staff. Another group spend time in the school library where children can choose to complete their homework, read books or join in with other guided activities.

Because children are able to make many choices about how they spend their time their independence and confidence is promoted. In addition, children contribute to group names and, new starters at the setting receive an 'induction certificate' which helps to give them a sense of belonging.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued, included and treated equally. Staff are aware of individual needs which are discussed with parents and appropriate levels of support are offered when necessary. All children can access the resources and activities available.

Children begin to learn about their local community through regular visits from a local police officer and planned visits from local fire officers. Children's understanding of the wider world is beginning to be developed as they are provided with a selection of resources, such as jigsaws, books and dolls which promote positive images of cultural diversity. However, resources are not extensive, and activities planned to help children learn about the wider world and diversity are limited.

Children behave well and begin to develop an understanding of responsible behaviour as they are included in discussions about behaving appropriately. Staff use appropriate strategies to encourage positive behaviour and children receive praise and rewards for behaving well. Each week staff choose 'stars of the week' and children are awarded with a trophy and their names are displayed for everyone to see.

Parents bring and collect children each day and are welcomed into the setting by staff. They are kept up to date of events and some information relating to the running of the provision is displayed for them to see. However, policies and procedures are not displayed and parents are not made fully aware that these are available for them to read.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well-organised environment which means their care and learning are promoted. Space and resources are organised appropriately to allow children to develop independence but ensuring they are supervised appropriately at all times.

All staff undergo appropriate checks and the manager ensures they are suitable to be in contact with children. Children benefit from staff experience as most staff hold relevant qualifications in early years and several staff are in the process of completing qualifications to further develop their knowledge and understanding of childcare.

Necessary records for the daily running of the provision are in place, such as attendance and accident records, and adult to child ratios are met at all times which means that children's safety is ensured. However, some documentation is not in place and several policies are in the process of being updated. For example, there is no evidence in place to record the induction procedure carried out with new staff employed at the setting and, to date, there is no complaint record available.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to make sure that Ofsted vetting procedures are completed for all staff to ensure their suitability to work with children. This has been implemented and evidence of staff suitability is held on site. The manager ensures that all new staff employed at the setting undergo checks to ensure they are suitable to be in contact with children.

A recommendation was also made to review the organisation of the session to ensure that children are grouped more appropriately, noise levels are reduced and Standard 2.3 in relation to group size is met at all times. This has been improved significantly as staff now plan times for children to spend within separate areas. When it is necessary for all children to be in the main hall staff have adopted strategies to ensure that noise levels are satisfactory and that children are organised into suitable group sizes.

Two further recommendations were also made to make sure that the daily registers for children and staff are accurately maintained, to ensure that information in the accident book is recorded in a way that maintains confidentiality and make sure that parents sign all entries. Both recommendations have been met and the above records are accurately maintained.

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 complaint 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):

- further develop resources which promote positive images of cultural diversity, age, gender and disability
- ensure that the written child protection policy includes details of the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff
- further develop written policies and procedures and ensure that records of complaints, fire drills, medication and staff induction are in place.

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