



## The Portacabin out of school club

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY334148
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Loraine Wardlaw
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<b>Registered person</b>	The Portacabin out of school care committee
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

The Portacabin out of school club was re-registered in 2006 but has been running since 1999. It includes a breakfast club, after school club and playscheme. It operates from a portacabin in the grounds of Arundel Court School in Landport, Portsmouth and is run by a voluntary management committee.

The provision is registered for 24 children under the age of eight but older children can also attend. Currently there are on average 42 on roll in the breakfast and after school club, aged from four to 11 years. The breakfast club is open from 08:00 to 09:00 Monday to Friday school term times only. The playscheme is open from 08:30 to 17:45 Monday to Friday, in the school holidays. The out of school club is open from 15.05 to 17:45 Monday to Friday, school term times. Children are picked up from Arundel Court Infant and Junior School and St. John's RC Primary School to attend the out of school club. Four staff are employed by the committee to work with the children including the manager who is qualified in early years care and education.

One staff member is qualified to National Vocational Level 3 in play work and two are working towards this qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's nutritional needs are met well because children eat and drink as soon as they arrive from their school, which re-energises them for their time at the club. A hearty and varied breakfast is offered in the mornings such as fruit juice, cereal and pancakes and a good selection of hot or cold light meals are offered after school. Children enjoy making decisions about the menu offered, but tend to go for the less healthy options in their choices, such as swiss roll with their sandwiches. A clean and suitably maintained premises provides a pleasant environment for the children's out of school care and play. However, children are unable to rest or relax quietly in a designated area. Children experience a fair amount of physical exercise and fresh air during suitable weather conditions; for example children run outside in the playground, play ball games or play with the parachute. Indoor physical exercise during inclement weather is planned only when children request it to a staff member, such as the dance mat. Staff know about children's allergies and understand about contagious skin conditions which suitably safeguards their health. Children's welfare is protected because all staff are first aid trained and staff keep appropriate records of accidents and medication administered. Children learn about good hygiene because they are very familiar with the hand washing routine before they eat their snack. However, two communal towels are used for the whole group which means cross infection is not suitably minimised within the setting.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure environment, where risk assessments are sometimes carried out to reduce the hazards and keep children suitably safe. However, these are not documented, or organised well, to demonstrate effectively how the setting ensures the premises are ready to receive children. Children move freely around the rooms but some areas are cluttered and not organised so that children can safely access them, such as the craft area. Children enjoy displaying their art work on the walls particularly large friezes, which all children are able to contribute to. Children regularly practise the fire drill but not all of these drills are recorded or evaluated well. A good, effective registration system ensures that staff know how many children are present at any one time. Staff liaise well with the schools, to ensure that they know children have been handed over safely to the club. Children play with a suitable selection of safe toys, most of which they choose themselves. Staff have a good working knowledge of child protection issues because all staff have attended up-to-date training. They document any concerns they may have and liaise with the schools to safeguard children from possible abuse.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children very much enjoy coming to the club and are interested in organising their own play and making their own choices. All age children become highly involved in role play, acting out experiences and make improvisations to make a 'home' such as a bed with sheets on the floor. They happily play pool, take turns on the play station, draw or lay on little cars to move around the room. Children think of craft activities and Christmas activities but staff do not always follow these through to ensure that children can get started on implementing their ideas and be challenged. Staff interact appropriately with children but sometimes they lack skills to guide and encourage children to enable them to fulfil their ideas. When children do initiate the craft activities, which is currently not very often, they enjoy making spiral shapes, robins and contribute to the Christmas frieze on the wall. Table top games are located, out of the way, in the cupboard and children request them as they want them. However, the younger, less able or less confident child is not necessarily able to say to an adult what they would like to play with. At the breakfast club children enjoy a good range of activities where staff carry through children's ideas and implement the short play programme. For example, children visit the newsagents to buy a newspaper or comic to read and initiate a 'Crufts' dog show by bringing in their toy dogs to be judged. All children enjoy social mealtimes together sitting together interacting, happily chatting with one another.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children take good ownership of the club and are actively involved in the decision making. For example, a children's committee is set up and meets regularly; they recently decided to change the menu to make it more exciting and understand that they have to keep to the budget. Children in the breakfast club regularly invite their teachers in to share breakfast with them and enjoy devising their own invitations on the computer. Children are treated with equal concern and have some resources to help them appreciate others in the wider community, such as a doll's wheelchair. Children's behaviour is good and they are helpful and caring towards visitors. For example, a child offers a chair for the inspector to sit on. They take turns on the play station and negotiate roles well during free play in the improvised 'home' corner. Children are consulted about the provision through questionnaires along with the children's parents. Children experience suitable continuity of care between their home and the club due to appropriate verbal communication between the staff and parents and occasional letters. There is a suitable complaints procedure and log in place and parents are aware of how they should make a complaint. However, staff's knowledge of how to deal with complaints is not fully updated in line with regulations

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled at the club. Appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures are in place to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. The voluntary management committee, made up of parents, regularly meets to make decisions and liaises with the manager.

The setting seeks advice from the Local Authority and is currently implementing the guidance given. Most of the staff hold appropriate qualifications or are working towards them; all staff attend regular training such as equal opportunities or active club. Good staff to child ratios are maintained at all times which means that children are suitably cared for. Although there is a sufficient amount of space, it is not used to its best advantage and to benefit the children at the group. For example, children experience high noise levels because they are not encouraged to use the smaller room by staff. Overall, record keeping is satisfactory because it lacks good organisation and consistent recording. A good amount and suitable range of personal policies and procedures underpin staff practice, but some are not updated which impacts on the outcomes for children. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration 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):

- improve hand washing facilities to help prevent cross infection
- ensure daily risk assessments and fire drills are regularly carried out and recorded effectively
- ensure the room is set up well each session so children can access the resources easily and safely, particularly the craft area
- increase staff's knowledge of the parental complaints procedure in line with new regulations

- review practice and organisation of rooms and activities to ensure children have a quiet, comfortable, relaxing area to look at books/ comics and can select table top toys independently

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)