



East Markham County Primary School Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY285128
Inspection date	08 June 2005
Inspector	Alison Putnar
Setting Address	Askham Road, East Markham, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG22 0RG
Telephone number	01777 870439
E-mail	head@eastmarkham.notts.sch.uk
Registered person	East Markham County Primary School
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

East Markham Out of School club registered in 2004. It operates from the hall and a neighbouring classroom (portable cabin) within East Markham County Primary School. Access to outdoor play facilities are provided. The club provides after school care for children who attend the school and from the local community. It operates from 15:30 to 17:45, Monday to Friday during term time only.

The club is registered to accommodate 16 children from 4 to 8 years, children over 8 also attend. There are currently 70 children on roll 18 of these are under 8 years old.

Children attend various days during the week. There is a minimum of 2 staff working with the children who have relevant early years qualifications or experience. The setting receive support from the Nottingham County Council Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is supported appropriately in the setting by staff who demonstrate a secure knowledge of good hygiene practices. Children develop and follow suitable hygiene routines, encouraged by staff, when preparing for their snack. Hygiene is less well monitored when children access the toilets.

Children are independent in self-care skills as they help to tidy away equipment, serve their own drinks and sometimes prepare their own snack. This also encourages them to be aware of the importance of maintaining their health and the need to take regular drinks during a warm afternoon and after exercise. Regular opportunities to make use of the well-equipped outdoor area ensures children are enthusiastic about physical play and are able to benefit from opportunities to develop their physical skills in the fresh air. Children are encouraged to make some healthy choices during snack times through the provision of fresh fruit and healthier sandwich fillings. Their dietary needs are met as staff take account of information gained on children's registration forms, likes and dislikes are respected. Most records relating to children's health are appropriately completed and a record of minor accidents is maintained. Permission to seek medical attention in emergency situations is not in place.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

The hall used by the children is safe but maintained in a poor state of decoration. Staff attempt to improve this through producing attractive displays of children's work, although display space is limited for the after school club. Children are comfortable and make use of a suitable range of furniture and equipment. Appropriate organisation ensures children can access activities equally. Resources are maintained in a safe and suitable condition. Snack time is a positive social occasion, all the children sit together sharing news and their daily experiences.

Although children are secure once inside the club their arrival is haphazard, systems are not secure enough for staff to clearly know who is attending. Staffing and organisational issues result in children being unsupervised as they arrive or visit the toilet facilities and less well supervised as they play outdoors. Children's safety is compromised at these times as they could potentially go missing unnoticed. They are encouraged to learn about safety through discussions when they go on trips and as they regularly take part in fire evacuation procedures. Children's welfare is safe guarded as the supervisor has a clear understanding of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic and self-assured in the club's relaxed environment. They enjoy the time to relax and make choices in play; children can choose to be active or to access quieter activities according to their needs. There is a suitable range of well-maintained resources for children to choose from, storage restricts their free access within the hall but staff are very willing to fetch further activities at children's request. Many children take part in planned 'themed nights' which incorporate a wider range of activities and experiences for them. These include walks in the local community, food tasting and art and craft session for events such as Mothers day, Chinese New Year and Halloween.

Good relationships are evident in the setting, children are comfortable to approach staff for support and frequently initiate conversations. Children have opportunities to play independently with their peers, with staff on hand to offer support and extend their ideas. They actively enjoy the outdoor provision, practising balancing and climbing on the fixed equipment and developing their co-ordination skills when playing ball games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy mutually respectful relationships with staff and each other. They develop their self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and make choices in play and at snack times. The atmosphere is calm and friendly. Good opportunities are created for children to learn about their local community, their own beliefs and explore aspects of the wider world. Children are well-behaved in response to staff's sensitive handling. They know what is expected of them as they discuss appropriate boundaries and club rules are displayed. Staff spend time talking with all children ensuring they are comfortable and involved in all aspects for the session. The setting are at a very early stage of looking at systems to support children with additional needs.

Children benefit from the friendly relationships developed between staff and parents. Their care needs are consistently maintained as the supervisor makes herself available to share relevant daily information and important records with parents. Parents are given general information about the daily operation of the club; however, the written policies and procedures are not freely accessible to them.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children's safety and well-being is adversely affected as the registered person has overlooked the requirement to ensure that all staff have submitted to relevant vetting procedures. Staff are not effectively organised. At times those not vetted are left in

sole charge of children, resulting in a potential risk to children's safety. This means that the needs of all children who attend are not met. All required policies are in place to guide staff in their practice. However, recruitment procedures are not fully effective to ensure that all staff are aware of, and kept up to date with, changes in policies and procedures. Children are able to experience a suitable variety of activities indoors and outdoors as space is well organised.

Children's needs are well documented overall and completed prior to them attending. This ensures staff are aware of children's individual needs and parent's wishes. Records are updated as required and stored in a confidential manner. The supervisor acts as a positive professional role model to other staff. She demonstrates a commitment to improving the provision for children, through attending additional training and courses relevant to her role.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- improve procedures to notify Ofsted of relevant matters, in this case staff changes, ensuring relevant vetting procedures are completed on staff working in the setting and improve organisation of staff to ensure that those not yet vetted are not left in sole charge of children.
- assess the risks to children in relation to them arriving at the club and visiting the toilets unsupervised and take action to minimise these potential risks, in addition improve staff supervision of children when playing outdoors ensuring they are unable to return into the building unnoticed.

These actions are set out in a ***notice of action to improve*** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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