



## Funzone at Walkwood Middle School

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY336865
<b>Inspection date</b>	30 November 2006
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<b>Registered person</b>	Funzone Ltd
<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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Funzone at Walkwood Middle School is one of three Out of School clubs run by Funzone Limited. It opened in 1998 and re-registered as a limited company in 2006. It operates from four rooms within Walkwood Middle School, Redditch. A maximum of 64 children may attend the club at any one time. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area within the school grounds.

There are currently 20 children aged under eight on roll, although children up to the age of 13 are also catered for. Children attend from a variety of schools within the local area. The setting is open each school day from 08:00 to 09:00 and from 15:15 to 18:00. During school holidays and teacher training days the club is open from 08:00 to 18:00. The setting supports children with learning difficulties.

A minimum of six members of staff work with the children. Over half hold appropriate qualifications. The setting has achieved an Aiming High level 3 quality certification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted well by a range of positive actions that ensure good hygiene is maintained at all times. Staff follow effective daily cleaning routines, such as regularly checking and cleaning toilets, wiping down food preparation areas and wearing aprons when handling food. There is a schedule for cleaning resources and equipment and staff carry out spot checks on hand washing to ensure this is done effectively. There are clear procedures for preventing the spread of infection when children become ill or injured, however the rest area is not welcoming or clearly defined. This prevents children from having a comfortable place to rest if they feel unwell. Most staff are first aid trained and there are clear procedures for recording accidents and meeting children's medication needs.

Children benefit from a good variety of wholesome and nutritious snacks and can help themselves to drinks at any time. Snack times are treated as social occasions and children are given a good selection of different foods to choose from such as cheese, cucumber, tomatoes, bread, fruit and crumpets. Independence is fostered by allowing children to prepare what they want to eat and staff talk to the children about the health value of foods and the problems associated with sugary snacks.

Children enjoy plenty of robust exercise. Team games, street games, football and parachute play is provided in the large hall immediately after school, and this allows children to run around and let off steam after a long day at school. Children take part in physical play in many different forms, and use the outside areas whenever possible. Staff value children's free play in a natural environment and encourage them to use wooded areas within the school grounds to make dens during the school holidays.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a friendly atmosphere where classroom furniture is moved around prior to the children arriving to give a different 'feel' to the room. Play space is organised effectively, with a large hall used as an initial meeting and settling area. This allows children to enjoy a wide variety of sports before moving into classroom areas to initiate their own activities.

There are suitable systems for ensuring the safety of children at all times. Proper safety precautions are taken to keep children safe and a risk assessment of both the premises and working practices has been carried out and is regularly reviewed. School collection policies and procedures ensure staff know exactly which children to collect from school each day and the course of action to be taken if these children do not arrive. Good staffing levels ensure children are well supervised at all times, although older children are given more independence and are encouraged to develop their own awareness of safety. For example, they know to report any hazards they see and basic health and safety is discussed with them during sport activities so that they understand their role in helping to keep everyone safe. Staff regularly check fire

equipment to ensure it is in good working order and children know how to evacuate the building quickly during an emergency because they regularly practise this.

Children's well-being is safeguarded because staff know and understand child protection procedures. Some have received specific training and all staff have easy access to detailed policies and reference guides to help them implement correct procedures when necessary. Parents have received details of these so that they know what action staff will take if they have any concerns about their children.

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

The provision is good.

Children are given a wide range of choice and independence and this develops close and respectful relationships. Staff listen to children, value their input and allow them to decide how they want to spend their time at the club. As a result, warm and caring relationships are developed and children are quick to involve staff in what they are doing, share their news and chat freely.

Children enjoy their time at the setting where they are encouraged to make their own decisions about what they want to do and so feel a sense of control in their lives. A 'children's council' encourages them to have a say in the resources provided and what they would like to see happen at the club and these ideas are followed up and acted upon. Children choose from lots of interesting and stimulating activities, such as board games, crafts or organising team games. There are also games of pool, a play station and time to listen to music or organise Christmas plays or football matches. Children join together for snack times and physical play, but then can move freely throughout the three rooms to carry out varying activities according to their age and interest. There is plenty of space to sit and talk to their friends and support is given for doing homework when needed.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individuality is valued and staff help children feel good about themselves by providing positive support, praise and the freedom to organise their own activities. Staff encourage them to develop independence and a strong sense of responsibility so that they learn to understand the impact their actions can have on others. For example, older children are reminded to be careful about what they say in front of younger children. All children are encouraged to help each other at snack time or when organising play activities and this is rewarded with lots of positive messages. Children develop their own rules over such things as turn taking when using the snooker table and computer and the 'children's council' ensures that children can voice their views. They are consulted on a variety of different issues, including behaviour and are constantly praised. As a result, children behave well, showing a clear understanding of what is expected of them.

Children develop positive attitudes and a balanced view of the world as they look at books, use dressing up clothes and enjoy creative activities linked to cultural festivals. A multicultural

resource box provides items of interest to look at and staff initiate discussions and use group time to discuss issues and help children understand the consequences of potentially hurtful remarks. Staff set high expectations for what children can do and facilitate all children's care to make sure that all their individual needs are met. They are receptive to the needs of children with learning difficulties and committed to working closely with parents and other relevant parties when necessary.

There are close partnerships formed with parents and this has a positive impact on children. Parents are well informed and show that they feel confident in leaving their children at the setting. They receive detailed information on how their children are cared for and are made to feel welcome and so feel able to discuss any concerns or issues with staff. A quiet area is set aside to discuss confidential matters and questionnaires are used to obtain parents' views and feedback. Children's written records are shared with parents and they are fully informed about the systems for registering queries, complaints or suggestions.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care is supported by the way the setting is organised and run. The owner works alongside staff to monitor and lead practice and has a clear sense of purpose and direction. Space and resources are used to best effect and staff work well together, interacting with children, listening and responding to their ideas and getting to know them well. Good team work ensures regulations are met, while toys and equipment are appropriately and safely stored enabling children to self-select play activities. Children are cared for by a stable, well qualified and experienced staffing team and effective employment procedures ensure that children are well protected.

An extensive range of documentation, records, policies and procedures contribute to children's welfare, care and learning and these are efficiently kept so that they are easily accessed by staff. Confidentiality is maintained and information from parents is recorded and acted upon. This provides consistency for children and reassurance for parents. Overall the children's needs are met.

### **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 good. 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):

- develop and re-organise the rest area to provide children with a comfortable place to relax or sit quietly when ill.

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)