



Altrincham Church of England Aided School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	318131
Inspection date	02 November 2006
Inspector	Shirley Leigh Monks-Meagher
Setting Address	Townfield Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 4DS
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Registered person	Julie Battle
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?

Altrincham Church of England Aided Out of School club opened in August 1994. It operates from the school hall and outdoor playing areas of the school premises. The club serves the school and local area.

The club is registered to care for up to 40 children at any one time. There are currently 78 children from three to 11 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The Breakfast and After School club opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 07.45 until 09.00 and 15.20 until 18.00. The holiday scheme is open each holiday with the exception of Christmas and the last week of the summer break. It is open from 08.00 until 18.00.

There are six part time staff who work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications equivalent to NVQ level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from an Early Years mentor from sure start.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing an understanding of suitable health and hygiene routines. They wash their hands at appropriate times, such as before food and after using the toilet. The staff follow satisfactory procedures to promote children's health and reduce the risk of illness. For example, they clean surfaces and tables with anti-bacterial spray, prepare food hygienically and share an effective sickness and exclusion policy with parents.

Staff's ability to keep documentation relating to accidents, incidents and medication safeguards children's welfare. Current first aid training ensures children receive appropriate care and attention in the event of accidents. Children engage in activities which contribute to their good health. They develop strength and co-ordination because they regularly use suitable outdoor equipment and play in the fresh air.

Children are hydrated and refreshed. They frequently help themselves to drinks from accessible jugs. Their individual dietary needs are well met because staff consult with parents. Children are beginning to understand about healthy choices. They engage in activities to develop their knowledge about the benefits of fresh fruit and vegetables in their diet. Snacks, such as 'toad in the hole' followed by a fresh fruit selection help them to learn about healthy life-style choices. Children routinely help adults during snack time, further developing their self-help and social skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure environment where they can move around freely and play comfortably in the ample space. Their work is attractively displayed encouraging their sense of belonging and boosting their confidence and self-esteem. They have safe and well maintained toys and equipment. A selection of which are made available to them each session from the large storage cupboard located across the corridor.

Children are safe in the setting because staff are aware of hazards and take suitable steps to minimise them. Children are beginning to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe; for example, they are developing an understanding of why they do not run indoors and how to safely evacuate the building in an emergency.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by staff who understand their role with regard to protecting children from harm and neglect. Staff are clear about monitoring and recording concerns, and who to contact in the event of such concerns. They understand the procedures to be followed and their implications if an allegation were to be made against them, however, these procedures are omitted from the written information which is shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and enjoy their time at the club. They describe it as a fun place with interesting activities and staff who play with them. They make good relationships with the staff who are interested in what they have to say and support and encourage their efforts and achievements. Children's emotional needs are well fostered.

Children engage in a variety of activities and play situations which are organised by the staff. Staff set out a selection of activities and resources each session and children choose where they will play. This provides children with an element of choice, however, this approach does not foster initiative or encourage children to develop, lead and extend play based on their own interests.

Children have the opportunity to use technology and can express their creativity through role play, arts and crafts. They relax in the book area and read their school books to the staff. A game of football is great fun for a group of children who whoop and shout their approval when goals are scored. Children spend their time at the club purposefully.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are warmly greeted into the club to help them feel valued and welcome. The staff present good role-models for the children and have positive strategies in place for achieving appropriate behaviour. Staff help children to learn about the consequences of their behaviour, resulting in children who understand right from wrong. Children are able to share, take-turns and play together co-operatively. Children benefit from plenty of appropriate praise and encouragement which values their efforts and achievements and ensures they feel good about themselves. As a result, they learn to be kind and responsive to other people's needs.

Children learn about the wider world and develop positive attitudes towards others. Their play materials and resources help them to positively recognise the similarities and differences in our diverse society. They celebrate a variety of festivals and observe traditions. For example, they learn about Diwali celebrations from their peers, who describe events in their homes and prepare a display about Bonfire Night.

Children benefit from the staff's positive partnership with parents. Parents receive information relating to the club and its policies and procedures. They have their own notice board and individual information packs. Staff gather and record general information from parents to enable them to meet children's individual needs. Children enjoy continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff provide a safe and secure environment for children to play where they are relaxed and happy. Staffing ratios are maintained by experienced staff who are either suitably qualified or are working towards a suitable qualification for their role. They are generally clear about their

roles and responsibilities, and positively support children's care, learning and play. Children benefit from well deployed staff who consistently interact with them. As a result, children are secure and confident.

The provider has informal systems in place relating to the recruitment, suitability and support of staff, however, these do not clearly define procedures and rigorously ensure the suitability of people working with children. For example, following up documentation notifying Ofsted of significant events, such as a new manager, in a timely fashion.

Generally, all documentation and records contributing towards children's safety and welfare are in place. They are suitably organised, stored securely and confidentiality is respected. 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 required to undertake the following actions to ensure that: National Standards were met; complete appropriate first aid training; ensure appropriate qualifications for manager; record staff attendance and ensure appropriate contingency plans in place to ensure adult to child ratio is maintained; ensure suitable fire safety procedures are in place and known to staff; develop staff's understanding of anti-discriminatory play and ensure children have access to resources which reflect diversity; ensure staff knowledge and understanding of the child protection procedures; develop knowledge and understanding of the regulations relating to documentation and significant events.

The provider and her staff have worked hard to meet the above actions and as a consequence are now meeting all the National Standards. Appropriate training has been undertaken by members of staff; for example, staff have attended first aid and child protection training, and two members of staff have enrolled and started working towards NVQ level 3 in play work. Registration systems for children and staff clearly indicate times that children are present and staff are on duty. Information relating to a bank of suitably vetted emergency staff is included in the operational plan file. Fire exits and routes are clearly marked and procedures are displayed. Fire fighting equipment is well maintained and children practise emergency evacuation on a regular basis. These drills are recorded and the information is used to evaluate its effectiveness. The group have acquired additional resources to help children broaden their understanding of the wider world and the diversity of our society. This includes a wide selection of good quality books, play people, dressing-up clothes and role play resources. Staff plan interesting activities and events to help children celebrate a variety of festivals and traditions. All children are encouraged to participate in all activities and opportunities available. Documentation has been organised into a variety of files which are stored safely and confidentially. This ensures managers and staff can easily check information and ensure records and documentation are readily accessible and available for inspections. The provider has written to Ofsted regarding significant events and states relevant paperwork has been completed and sent to Ofsted to initiate suitable persons procedures for a new manager. However, that was in May 2006 and she has not rigorously followed it up. As a result, the suitability procedures have not been implemented.

As a result of the actions of the group, children's safety, welfare and well-being are generally promoted.

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 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):

- review child protection statement to include the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against staff and share it with parents
- further develop children's choices and initiative by enabling them to effectively develop, lead and extend their own play
- formalise the policies and procedures relating to the recruitment and selection of staff and the support mechanisms in place to promote staff development and practices.

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