

Stepping Stones

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY331188
Inspection date	09 November 2006
Inspector	June Rice
Setting Address	St. Josephs RC Church, Pontefract Road, CASTLEFORD, West Yorkshire, WF10 4JB
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Registered person	David Christopher Olde
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?

Stepping Stones Out of School Club opened in 2006 and operates from St. Josephs RC Junior and Infant school in Castleford. It is situated in the dining hall. A maximum of 26 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 15.30 to 18.30 during school term time only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently four children aged from three to under eight years on roll. The Out of School Club employs two members of staff. Of these, one holds a level 2 early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy through the implementation of adequate hygiene practices and procedures. For example, staff take appropriate steps to ensure that the environment, toys and equipment are clean and suitable for use. Children are very independent in their personal care and wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. They understand why and explain 'I have to wash the germs off.'

Children's dietary needs are met sufficiently. They benefit from a satisfactory exchange of information about their health and nutrition needs. Children are able to help themselves to request a drink anytime and they enjoy light refreshments of various sandwiches. However, staff preparing food do not have training in food safety and hygiene. There are insufficient opportunities planned for physical and outside play. For example, children occasionally use the school grounds for more energetic games using footballs and hoops, although there is no alternative planned when children are unable to access the playground.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children benefit from an environment that is familiar, warm, clean and well maintained. They move freely around the play area and are able to select an adequate range of resources and activities that are safe and suitable for use. Staff supervise children's play well and this ensures that they use the toys and equipment safely and with respect. Children's understanding of personal safety is adequately promoted through simple explanations and constant reminders. For example, they are reminded not to run. However, the provider does not have sole use of the dining room while the school is running after school activities. Staff are unable to prevent the constant flow of visitors through the hall into the playground and they have not been involved in an emergency evacuation since commencing employment. Therefore, children's safety is at risk.

Staff are unable to demonstrate a clear understanding of child protection and the procedures to be followed. They have not viewed the child protection policy and remain unsure about their responsibilities in regard to child protection. This puts children at risk.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident, settled and have a sense of belonging. They enjoy their time in the setting where they can relax after school. Children have developed positive relationships with each other and join in small group activities, such as construction and craft using a satisfactory range of materials. They show a satisfactory level of awareness and sufficient interest in what they choose to do. Children participate in an adequate range of activities and interact well with staff who support them appropriately. For example, when children are unoccupied staff encourage them to try a construction activity or make a picture. However, insufficient planning of activities means that challenges for children are few and children gain little from the activities on offer.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children are valued as individuals and their confidence, independence and self-assurance are fostered and promoted satisfactorily through praise, encouragement and adequate challenges. They benefit because staff take positive steps to include all children and adapt activities accordingly. They are very polite and friendly individuals, happy to be in familiar surroundings where they are able to chill out with friends. Children are developing satisfactory relationships with staff and interact well with them. Children are very well behaved and slight disagreements are soon forgotten. They know right from wrong. For example, they listen carefully to staff and acknowledge requests not to run in the hall and to stop misusing small equipment.

Partnership with parents is inadequate. They are encouraged to share basic information prior to children joining and receive verbal feedback at the end of the sessions. However, the provider was unable to present the procedures for child protection, complaints and lost children. Therefore, partnership with parents is not effectively promoted and this limits parents involvement in the care of their children.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children benefit from an adequately organised physical environment that supports their learning through imagination and play. For example, the dining hall provides sufficient space for table top activities and the children occasionally use the playground. Staff plan table top activities and toys and equipment are easily selected by children encouraging their independence and choice. The provider was unable to present all mandatory documents required by Ofsted and has not followed appropriate recruitment and clearance procedures for staff. This puts children at risk.

Overall the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the 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.

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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:

- ensure that adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so
- ensure that training and qualifications requirements are met
- develop a procedure to be followed in the event of a child being lost

- take steps to promote safety within the setting and ensure proper precautions are taken to ensure children's safety
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint
- develop a written child protection statement and ensure the procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- ensure all staff working with children are able to put the child protection procedures into practice
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

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 *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