



St. Teresa's After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY332947
Inspection date	01 November 2006
Inspector	Ferroza Saiyed
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Registered person	The Committee of St Teresa's After School Club
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St. Teresa's After School Club has been registered since July 2006. It is a committee run service that operates from St. Teresa's Primary School. The school is situated in a quiet residential area in the Upholland area of Skelmersdale.

The children have access to the hall, an additional classroom and kitchen facilities. In addition, children have access to suitable toilets and hand washing facilities. Enclosed outdoor play areas are available for children to access, for physical play.

The committee is registered to provide care for up to 24 children aged four to eight years. Children over eight also attend the provision. There are no children with special needs and no children attending who have English as additional language. There are currently 44 children on roll who come for a variety of sessions throughout the week. The club operates from 15.15 to 18.00 each weekday, during term time only.

The committee employs four members of staff including the manager; they all have early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a welcoming environment in which their physical needs are extremely well met, contributing to their good health. The children actively participate in a wide range of physical indoors and outdoors activities. For example, the range of outdoor activities includes football, running and an adventure play area, where they climb and balance. This encourages their understanding of exercise and physical development.

Children stay really healthy and are protected from infection as staff follow detailed and effective hygiene procedures. The premises are clean; furniture and equipment are checked regularly. Staff ensure that children are well looked after if they become sick or unwell. Children discuss routines relating to good hygiene and are encouraged to wash their hands after activities, after using the toilet and before snacks. Children state that they use liquid soap, disposable towels or a hand dryer. Records of accidents are signed by parents and medication is only administered if ongoing. There is a first aid box accessible and all staff have up to date first aid training.

Children are well nourished and enjoy the variety of snacks provided. They clearly understand the importance of eating fresh fruit and vegetables, and that they help them to grow and keep healthy. A snack menu is planned and this includes fresh fruit, vegetables, crackers, toasts, various spreads, cheese, sausage rolls and cheese rolls. Snack time is a positive social occasion in which children sit and chat with staff and friends, sharing news and information.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in a warm, welcoming, child-centred environment where they can play, eat and relax in comfort and safety. The sessions take place in the school premises and there is plenty of space for free movement within the hall and the outdoor grounds. Toys and equipment, in the main, conform to the required safety standards and are checked for their suitability. This ensures that children have a safe selection of resources to choose from, which they find enjoyable. For example, they enjoy the outdoor games and the wide range of activities indoor, including crafts and interactive games.

Children's safety and security is enhanced owing to staff following health and safety procedures. For example, visitors are monitored, a booking in and out diary is completed and there are security pads and doorbells to monitor collection of children. Staff carry out daily visual risk assessments on all areas used by the children, and equipment checks. The supervision of children is good as staff alert each other when they are leaving areas or taking children to another area. There is a fire procedure in place but no opportunities for children to learn about fire safety through the practising of the emergency evacuation are provided. This jeopardises children's safety.

The protection of the children is maintained through the staff's knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance. Staff demonstrated a good understanding of child protection issues and how to safeguard the children in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and are very confident in the setting. They enjoy and achieve because the staff are skilled and use their knowledge to plan interesting, challenging and achievable activities for children of all ages. The children are occupied, and enjoy making choices promoting their independence, such as asking to play outdoors. Children enjoy a variety of outdoor play experiences; they develop their physical skills as they run around in the fresh air. This is most welcoming to children following a day in school. The children have opportunities to spend quiet times in designated areas. For example, two children sat and read a journal.

There are a range of resources that include board games, craft material, dolls, books and interactive toys. Children are well supported as staff work and play directly with individual children or within small groups, and respond to their needs and interests. For example, during craft activity the staff encouraged children to share their experiences about Halloween with other children, promoting confidence and self-esteem. Children made fireworks with feathers and paper clips and were eager to show off their creations. This promotes children imagination and creativity. Staff show genuine care and warmth towards the children, they know them well as they all attend the school and ensure they have equal access and are fully occupied and enjoying themselves.

They enjoy opportunities to giggle, laugh and smile as they communicate with their friends and staff during their time at the setting. This means children's social needs and social skills are catered for in a positive and encouraging environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are actively encouraged to make choices about the toys and games they wish to play with. Children feel a sense of belonging, as they know the staff and follow a consistent routine to help them feel secure and confident. Their experience of the wider world is not fully promoted, because, although there are some resources to reflect diversity, staff do not always know how to promote this aspect of their practice.

Children are learning to take responsibility for their own behaviour because the staff follow positive and appropriate strategies for helping children learn to manage their behaviour. Children learn the boundaries and guidelines because staff are consistent. Staff speak positively to children using praise and encouragement effectively to celebrate their efforts and achievements. As a consequence children are confident and display high self-esteem. Children play harmoniously together and older children support the younger children as they freely select their own toys and play equipment. Children and staff have good relationships which contribute to children being generally settled and happy.

Children benefit from positive relationships with staff and their parents as they chat together at the end of the sessions. Parents state that they are happy with the service and that it is flexible to meet their needs. They are aware of the organisational policies and procedures and know what to do and who to report to in the event of a complaint. Parents state that the staff are friendly and approachable and that they are familiar with the committee members.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are part of a well organised, child-centred environment, where staff implement good routines and follow detailed and effective health and safety procedures. Children are protected owing to all staff being suitably vetted, experienced and qualified in childcare practice. Children are confident and secure as staff are effectively deployed and there are good ratios of staff to support the children throughout the sessions.

Children's good health, safety, enjoyment and ability to take part in all aspects is well fostered. Staff organise space, resources and routines to support children's all round development and welfare. The sessions are child-led as staff respond to the children's interests with plenty of free play and free choice.

Children are well cared for as staff implement and follow good organisational policies and procedures, for example, sickness procedures, admissions policy, equal opportunities, behaviour management and health and safety. Staff are familiar with the National Standards and have retained previous records for the purpose of inspection. All regulatory records, including accidents, medication, attendance and personal details, are well documented and available for inspection.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children attending.

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):

- provide opportunities for children to learn about fire safety through the practising of the emergency evacuation procedure
- extend the range of resources and activities to promote diversity, and improve staff knowledge and understanding of how to enhance children's learning.

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