



Chapelfields School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY278120
Inspection date	14 June 2005
Inspector	Diane Ashplant

Setting Address	Lyndon Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 7RE
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Telephone number

E-mail

Registered person	Beechwood Childcare Limited
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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?

Beechwood Before and After school club at Chapelfields school opened in 2004. It is part of a private childcare organisation that includes nurseries and other school clubs. The club is situated at Chapelfields Junior school in Lyndon Road, Solihull. It operates from a classroom on the ground floor with easy access to the enclosed outdoor play area. The toilets are situated at some distance but children are always appropriately supervised. The club also has use of the school playing fields. The club serves the children who attend the school. The club is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children at anyone time and there are currently 16 up to the age of 11 years on roll.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 15.30 until 18.00 hrs.

There are currently two staff who work with the children one of whom holds an appropriate childcare qualification and one who is currently completing an appropriate playwork qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy daily play sessions in the spacious school fields to which they have easy access. This helps promote their physical development and provides relaxing opportunities in the open air for maintaining healthy lifestyles. They are able to organise their own play as in football games or engage with other children and staff in activities such as skipping. Children are developing their awareness of how to keep themselves healthy by carrying out suitable hygiene practices such as hand washing before snacks. Although these routines are consistently encouraged by staff they need to be further developed to reduce the possibility of cross contamination.

Children are learning about healthy eating and are encouraged to try out a variety of fresh fruit. They discuss the benefits of this and use creative activities to extend their awareness. Children understand the importance of taking frequent drinks as they are able to help themselves at any time, including when they play outside, a bottle of fresh water is available in hot weather.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe, child orientated environment where most hazards have been addressed. They have use of a ground floor room with easy access to a secure and well maintained outdoor play area. Children can choose freely from a range of age appropriate resources to support their play which are checked regularly for condition and safety. Children are learning about how to keep themselves safe through discussions and activities shared at the club and by special events such as a visit from the road safety officer. They learn to understand the implications of their own actions on the safety of others by the clear guidance given by staff. The children develop their independence in such tasks as bringing themselves to the club room, but at other times their safety is given priority by having staff in attendance.

Children's welfare is further safeguarded through all policies and procedures of the group and the staff's clear understanding of their role in Child Protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children feel a sense of ownership in their club which is attractively set out with displays of their work and where they are warmly welcomed by the staff. They are self assured and able to relax and unwind after school and engage in an interesting variety of activities. These provide a very good balance between child and adult directed opportunities. Children frequently take advantage of the outdoor play space to participate in both team and individual games and staff and children play enthusiastically together. Children have good relationships with the staff who use opportunities well to listen to them and extend their individual experiences. Children talk regularly with them in a relaxed and open manner.

Children have an extensive range of craft activities to choose from and enjoy making many different items and articles which are carefully selected and planned by the staff. Children develop different skills and also expand their general knowledge by the linking of activities to other topics, such as road safety and the firework code. Children are engaged and interested and therefore make good progress. Children can choose freely from a variety of resources and opportunities which are carefully arranged to enable ease of access.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed here. They learn to appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences by the positive attitude displayed by the staff at the group. Children's individual needs are understood and sensitively respected so they feel able to be themselves. They can comfortably choose to engage in group activities or spend time amusing themselves. Children have access to a variety of resources which reflect diversity and openly engage in discussions and topics which help extend their knowledge of the wider world. Children make good relationships with staff and each other. They are encouraged to express their own opinions which helps them develop their confidence and self esteem.

Children are well behaved. They know what is expected of them as the staff talk regularly to them to make sure they understand the boundaries. Children learn what is acceptable as they are firmly but fairly told when action is not appropriate and are encouraged and rewarded when they behave well.

Partnership with parents is positive and very friendly and staff are approachable and relaxed which enables open discussion about each child's progress. Written information and displays provide parents with details about the daily programme and routines of the club and staff work effectively with the parents to ensure their children are happy and settled.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel welcomed and relaxed at this club and can talk freely with staff. This means they are happy to engage in the activities provided and feel confident to

initiate their own play choices. Children are provided with a good range of opportunities and activities to challenge and interest them due to the well organised daily programme and the effective team work of the staff. Most of the procedures and policies for the efficient management of the club are in place and made available to parents, although the recording of staff attendance is irregular. The use of the display boards is an effective way of sharing information with parents. There are suitable contingency plans to cover staff absence so that children are looked after by experienced and familiar staff. However, the registered person does not always keep Ofsted informed of the changes to staff and premises and does not have efficient procedures for demonstrating that staff are suitably checked and qualified. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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 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):

- ensure that hand washing procedures more effectively reduce the possibility of cross contamination.
- ensure Ofsted are kept fully informed of all significant changes.
- develop and implement procedures to ensure Ofsted have all information on new staff.

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