



Schools Out

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY297944
Inspection date	06 June 2005
Inspector	Justine Ellaway
Setting Address	1st Burbage Scout H.Q., Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire
Telephone number	
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Registered person	Susan Elizabeth Kitching
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?

Schools Out, out of school club opened in 2005. It operates from the main hall in a Scout Hut in Burbage, Leicestershire. A maximum of 26 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday during term time from 08:00 to 09:00 and 15:30 to 17:30. Children have access to a playing field and park.

There are currently 25 children aged from 5 to 11 years on roll. Children come from the local community and are escorted to and from the nearby Infants and Junior School.

The club employs 5 staff. Two of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children sometimes have opportunities to play outside which contributes to their physical development. They enjoy physical play and benefit from having the freedom to move around within the hall. Children understand about personal hygiene, for example they wash their hands before eating their snack without being reminded to do so. Staff show careful attention to hygiene and cleanliness of the premises and maintain appropriate records to promote the good health of the children attending. Three members of staff hold a first aid certificate, however written permission for plasters has not been sought.

Children's social skills and independence are promoted at snack time, the children sit together, they help themselves to a drink and cold snack and clear away when they have finished. Children sometimes have the option of fruit to encourage healthy eating. Children's dietary information is gathered and constantly applied by staff, to ensure all children enjoy the same options of food and drink, and participate fully in any cooking activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is promoted as staff have a good understanding of health and safety issues, and are vigilant about minimising risks and hazards, despite not having completed a risk assessment. Children understand which areas of the hall they can use to ensure their own safety. Space is organised effectively and there are suitable procedures for the collection of children to ensure their safety. Children are kept safe when outdoors as staff are careful about checking the area and restricting access to areas that are unsafe.

The suitable and appropriate range of toys and resources offer children opportunities to engage in physical, quiet

or imaginative play. Children independently access the range of games, however access to other resources and toys is limited due to storage layout, and therefore does not always offer opportunities for them to self select when they want to. Children are protected by staff who have a clear understanding of child protection issues, two members of staff have just updated their knowledge on a course.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children show confidence when entering the setting and in their interaction with others. They form good relationships with others and show consideration for the other children in the setting when playing or doing activities. Staff show interest in children and help them to settle in when they are new, which encourages their self esteem and promotes confidence. Their independence is fostered through the encouragement of staff to develop their skills and do things for themselves.

Children are given opportunities to play independently and with their peers and are encouraged to participate in some planned adult led activities. Most children engage in play that interests them, however a small minority are not fully stimulated and spend time during the session trying to occupy themselves. Children do not always have the opportunity to contribute to the planning of activities, therefore their creativity is not fully promoted. Children demonstrate a clear understanding of the rules, for example they tidy away after their snack and behave well during their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are included and their differences respected, giving them the same opportunities to participate in all of the club's activities. They have some opportunities to explore diversity and the wider world through activities, books and resources. Children with special needs are supported and positive steps taken to meet their individual needs. Staff work closely with parents to ensure children with special needs feel included.

Children behave very well and are clear about the rules of the club. They show care and consideration for others, for example supporting each other during a craft activity. They are able to take turns. They develop good relationships with staff which improves confidence and enables them to feel comfortable in the setting. Staff reward good behaviour sensitively and appropriately to make it meaningful and foster children's self esteem. Effective relationships with parents are established to provide continuity of care for children, written information is provided as a parent's pack, however some of the required information has not been included.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is supported by the effective organisation of staff and resources. Children demonstrate confidence in the setting and in their approach with staff and their peers, enabling many of them to initiate their own play. Staff deployment ensures that children are safe and receive appropriate support whilst at the club.

The required records relating to children are in place, although many of the club's policies and procedures were unavailable at the time of inspection, however staff demonstrate a satisfactory understanding of them to promote the welfare of the children who attend. Regular staff meetings promote consistency of care for children within the setting. The provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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 further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- request permission from parents before using non standard first aid equipment
- ensure that a risk assessment is completed for the premises
- provide a wide and stimulating variety of activities that are appropriate for all children
- ensure that the information for parents contains information regarding complaints and details of the policies and procedures
- ensure that the policies and procedures are available for inspection.

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