



# Upperthong Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 311412  
**Inspection date** 06 December 2005  
**Inspector** Carole, Jean Bell

**Setting Address** Upperthong J & I School, Burnlee Road, Holmfirth,  
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**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](http://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?

Upperthong Out of School Club is a private organisation, managed by a partnership. It opened in 1996 and operates from Upperthong Junior and Infant School in Holmfirth. A maximum of 38 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 07:30 to 09:00 and 15:30 to 18:00 in school term time. There is an outdoor play area available for the children.

There are currently 45 children aged from four to eleven years on roll.

The club employs five staff. The manager holds an appropriate child care

qualification. One member of staff is working towards a qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. They are protected from infection as staff maintain their own rigorous hygiene routines when preparing or handling food for the children. However, staff should reinforce children's understanding of good hygiene routines by ensuring that they wash their hands before eating.

Children benefit from healthy and nutritious snacks. These take into account their individual dietary requirements to ensure that they stay healthy. They make choices about their snacks and have access to fresh fruit throughout the session, promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Children have good opportunities to enjoy physical activities which contributes to their good health and develops their strength. They are able to rest or be active according to their needs and make choices about when they play outdoors. They develop self confidence in their physical skills by using a range of indoor and outdoor toys and equipment.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have sufficient space to move around freely and play comfortably. The risk of accidental injury is minimised by children's awareness of safety rules and staff reminders to take care of themselves and each other. They are protected by good safety procedures whilst on the premises and the external doors are kept locked when the children are present. However, staff should ensure that they record all visitors to the premises.

Children have access to a good range of safe, well maintained equipment and a secure outdoor area. Resources are all good quality and sufficient in quantity to meet the children's needs. They are well organised to allow children to make independent choices about their play and improve their confidence and independence skills.

Children are well protected. All staff have received training in child protection and have a clear understanding of their responsibilities under the Children Act. They are aware of the types of abuse and signs to look for and the children's welfare is paramount.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and relaxed on arrival and staff greet them by name. Their confidence is promoted by positive relationships with staff and their understanding of children's individual needs and personalities. Children are given good attention and staff ask questions and initiate discussion. There is a mentoring system in place to help settle new children.

Children are confident and self-assured in their play and older children helped and supported the younger ones. Their independence skills and self sufficiency are developed through easily accessible resources and equipment. Children experience a wide variety of play experiences with a good emphasis being given to fresh air and exercise.

They are given praise, encouragement and support by a motivated staff group who provide interesting activities throughout the session. Children have access to craft and baking activities, imaginative play, table and board games, puppet theatre, construction toys and access to the school library.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children's individual and cultural needs are discussed with parents and competently met by the staff. They gain awareness of their local environment and the wider world from a good variety of resources and they are encouraged to value others as individuals.

Children benefit from warm and friendly relationships that staff have developed with them and their parents. Their needs are promoted through good systems being in place for sharing information with parents. Continuity of care and consistency for children is ensured through friendly and informal daily feedback for parents and staff have the opportunity to contribute to the school's weekly newsletter.

The staff speak very positively to the children and work hard to build their self-esteem. Their social skills and respect for people and property are developed through the use of good manners, sharing and encouragement in simple chores such as helping to tidy up. Children are developing an understanding of responsible behaviour and are involved in setting ground rules for the group. Their efforts are rewarded by praise and encouragement from the staff.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children have sufficient space to play and are comfortable and relaxed within the setting. They move about the playroom and activities with confidence and staff are well deployed to meet their needs. They benefit from the care of an enthusiastic staff group who work well as a team. However, the group needs to consider how to meet the ratio of qualified staff as required in the National Standards.

All required documentation is in place which contributes to the children's health, well

being and safety. Policies and procedures are clear and well detailed and are available to parents. A qualified first aider is available at all times.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children for whom it provides care.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the group agreed to implement an induction procedure for new staff, ensure that a qualified first aider was available at all times and include contact details of the regulator in their complaints procedure. These recommendations have been carried out leading to a safer environment for minded children.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

A complaint was received in December 2004 relating to Standard 1 (Suitable Person) of the National Standards. This was investigated by Ofsted and the provider remains suitable for registration.

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):

- ensure that children's hygiene routines are maintained
- ensure that all visitors to the premises are recorded
- ensure that the ratio of qualified staff meets the requirements of the National Standards.

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:

