



## Acorn's Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY233210
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Doreen Forsyth
<b>Setting Address</b>	Hampstead Norreys Village Hall, Newbury Hill, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG18 0TR
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<b>Registered person</b>	Acorns Out of School Club
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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?

The Acorns Out of School Club registered in April 2002. The setting operates from the village hall in Hampstead Norreys near Newbury in Berkshire. It is supported by a management committee. The club provides after-school care, mainly for children attending nearby Hampstead Norreys Primary School.

The club is registered to provide after-school care for 24 children aged from four to eight years old, currently there are approximately 55 children on roll. The setting opens each weekday from 15:15 until 17:45 during school term times. The club receives support from the local authority.

There are six members of staff that regularly work with the children, two of these are currently attending appropriate training at level 3.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are well taken care of should they have an accident or become ill because the play-leaders follow appropriate health and hygiene guidelines and procedures. Both leaders have current first aid training. All the correct records regarding medicines and accidents are kept but the medications record lacks some detail.

Children learn good hygiene practices. They are always reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. Children are provided with a choice of healthy and nutritious snacks when they arrive at the club after school. This includes items such as bread, cheese, fruit and vegetables, yogurts and pancakes. Children have a choice of suitable drinks and drinking water is always available. The weekly menu of snacks is displayed for parents.

Children can rest quietly if they wish in the book corner, where the staff have provided some comfortable mats and cushions. In suitable weather children play outside in the adjoining playing fields; indoors, children enjoy some physical activities and play.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a village hall next to the local primary school. The hall is a warm, welcoming and suitable environment. The staff have appropriately risk assessed the setting, identifying and minimising any potential hazards to children. All required health and safety policies are in place. However, some children are not learning very well about keeping themselves and others safe. They often run about the hall, playing boisterously around other children and in and out the tables; this is a potential risk of accidents to the children. Children learnt about road safety when a road safety officer visited the club during health and safety week.

Children play with a range of suitable resources and toys, including good craft resources, they enjoy the computer games. There is a selection of appropriate toys put out each session that are suitable for the age range of the children that attend the club.

Children are safeguarded because staff understand their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures in place if necessary.

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

The provision is good.

Children take part in a good range of interesting and worthwhile activities, that the leaders plan for the children to do while at the club. These plans are flexible so that children's interests are developed and followed as appropriate. Children arrive at the club happily from school, after their snack they chose what they wish to do. They have good opportunities to use a selection of craft resources and activities. For example, during the inspection children made pot-pourri bags to take home and some children proudly showed me tie-dye socks they had

made the previous day. Children enjoy their time at the after school club and have made friends there.

Children enjoy regular cooking activities; they have made crispy cakes and fruit kebabs as part of a healthy eating project and pizzas. They take part in physical games and they enjoy playing outside on the playing fields when the weather allows. Children have opportunities for quieter activities if they wish, such as reading books, listening to stories, role play, or puzzles.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed into the setting, including those that have learning difficulties or that have disabilities. The setting has suitable equal opportunities and special needs policies in place. Children learn to value diversity by using a range of appropriate resources, such as small world figures and books. They celebrate different festivals and special days, such as Chinese New Year, Halloween, Mother's day and Christmas.

Children usually behave well. Staff value and praise children's good behaviour and achievements. However, occasionally children are not encouraged enough to have consideration for others during physical play. There are written club behaviour rules, which the children are aware of, displayed for parents on the setting's notice boards.

Children benefit from the staff's good partnership with parents and carers. Parents are given good written information about the setting; they receive regular newsletters and there are informative notice boards at the entrance to the hall. There is a suitable complaints procedure in place. Staff informally exchange information about the children's well-being with parents at the end of the daily session.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

All the required policies, procedures and records that help support children's health, safety and enjoyment, including a good record of children's attendance are in place. The staff working with the children are suitable to do so and have undergone an appropriate vetting procedure; any unvetted adults are not left unsupervised with the children. The play-leaders are attending relevant training to ensure they meet required qualification levels, they encourage other members of staff to attend suitable training.

The setting is appropriately organised and the correct adult to child ratios are always maintained.

The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the after-school was set three actions for improvement, regarding documentation and the implementation of an action plan regarding staff qualifications. A suitable plan was put into place and two members of staff are now in the process of gaining

an appropriate level 3 qualification and other staff are attending short courses. All the required documentation that assists in promoting the safety, health and well-being of the children was seen to be in place at this inspection.

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

Since the last inspection 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 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 children's boisterous indoor play does present a hazard to other children.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)