



Wheat-Patch Club Before/Afterschool & Holiday (The)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136103
Inspection date	02 November 2006
Inspector	Hilary Elizabeth Tierney
Setting Address	The Pavilion, The Avenue,, Patchway, Bristol, BS34 6BD
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Registered person	Wheat-Patch Club Before/Afterschool & Holiday 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Wheat-Patch Club operates from the hall of a local community centre and serves the Patchway/Bradley Stoke area. Children have access to a small enclosed yard to the rear of the building, and occasional outings are arranged during school holidays.

The group may provide care for 24 children aged from four to eight years. There are currently 74 children on roll. During term time it offers before school care from 07:45 and after school care until 18:00 hours for children attending Patchway Church of England and Wheatfield Primary schools. Club staff escort children to and from the schools. During school holidays it is also open to children in the wider community, and children bring packed lunches if staying all day.

The staff team includes three members of staff with appropriate early years qualifications, and a pool of unqualified part time assistants.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are aware of the need to wash their hands when they arrive back from school. They learn satisfactory hygiene procedures. Staff remind them gently about washing hands before snacks and after using the toilet. Hand dryers are used to prevent the spread of infection. Children's health is protected. They are cared for in a bright, warm room, which is adequately maintained. Children do not attend when ill and parents are contacted immediately if a child becomes ill at the setting. Parents' emergency contact numbers are easily accessible, which may help to reduce delays in the event of an emergency. Accident sheets are completed and shared with parents appropriately. A medication book is in place. Parents are required to give prior written permission before staff are able to administer medication to children.

Parents provide food for their children if they attend all day at the holiday play scheme. Therefore during this time staff have little impact on children's diets. The staff ensure they are informed about children's dietary needs or allergies. When children attend before and after school they are provided with snacks and drinks. These include a variety of fruit, toast or biscuits, water or juice. Drinks are easily available during the whole session for children to access freely.

There is a suitable outside play area which children may access when attending the holiday play scheme. During the time children are attending before and after school access to the field and enclosed play area is restricted due to staffing and dark evenings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe environment. There are satisfactory procedures in place which ensure children's safety as they play. Resources are of satisfactory quality and children may access the selection put out by the staff at the beginning of sessions. Staff supervise children well. All doors are locked at all times when children are present. There are detailed outings procedures in place. Special consents are obtained from parents when children are taken on outings. Staff undertake risk assessments of the premises and outings when required. Emergency evacuation procedures are practised with children and recorded regularly. There is a visitors book, however this does not record times of their arrival and departure. This may compromise children's safety. Escort arrangements are sufficient, when taking children to and from school to the club building.

There is a clear child protection policy, but this does not include a procedure to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff. All staff have suitable knowledge and understanding about child protection, but were unsure about the Safeguarding Children procedure changes. Staff have a suitable awareness about their responsibility to safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children understand when they arrive at the setting, they hang up their coats and bags, wash their hands and sit for snacks. They chat amongst themselves and with the staff as they do so. Staff interact well with the children. They know them well and meet their needs appropriately.

Staff put out a selection of resources for the children and they are able to choose from this selection. During the visit children were observed taking part with excitement and enjoyment in the activities provided. Amongst these were painting, board games, imaginative play and play dough. Staff help children when required. Children co-operate and share as they play. The older children were observed helping the younger children. All children show care for each other and get on well during their time at the session.

When the holiday play scheme operates themes are planned, the last theme was physical play. Activities included badminton, volley ball, French cricket, rounders and a pool tournament.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff have clear procedures in place to identify and give appropriate support to children with learning difficulties and disabilities. Children's needs are met well by staff. Some staff work within the school that most of the children attend. This helps staff build a good rapport with children. All children are fully included and take part in all activities.

Children are well behaved and understand the rules of the club. They realise incidents are shared with their parents and recorded. Good behaviour is also recorded in a 'happy incident book'. There is a detailed behaviour policy. Staff work together well to ensure they are consistent when dealing with children's behaviour.

Parents are given a detailed prospectus which includes policies and procedures. Verbal information is shared with parents when they collect their children at the end of the session. Regular newsletters from the committee and leader ensure parents are kept informed about any changes to the club. Although there is a detailed complaints procedure in place, and parents have access to the appropriate telephone numbers should they wish to complain, no forms for recording complaints are kept at the setting. This means that complaints may not be dealt with quickly.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All legal documentation required for registration is in place. These are kept confidential and stored securely. The registration system does record children's arrival in the morning and their departure in the evenings, but no records are kept of when children are handed over to school in the mornings and when they are collected in the afternoons by the staff. This may compromise children's safety.

Recruitment procedures are satisfactory. All staff have appropriate child care qualifications and clearance to enable them to work with children safely.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The provider had six recommendations from the last inspection. These were to ensure that a nominated person is appointed to legally represent the management committee as soon as possible; ensure all staff are secure in their knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and are familiar with procedures; ensure escort arrangements are sufficient to ensure the safe supervision of children and meet those stated in the club policy; ensure records for administration of medication and recording of accidents are maintained consistently and accurately; ensure registration arrangements indicate the hours children and staff are present and ensure systems are in place to identify and give appropriate support to children with particular needs.

Most of these have been completed satisfactorily. There is now a nominated person that has been appointed which ensures they are available to legally represent the committee. All staff have a suitable knowledge and understanding of child protection, but they were unsure about the Safeguarding Children procedure changes. The escort arrangements are now sufficient and ensure the safe supervision of the children. All records are now kept for administration of medication and recording accidents, these are clear and shared with parents. The registration system does record children's arrival in the morning and their departure in the evenings, but no records are kept of when children go into school in the mornings and collected in the afternoons by the staff. This may compromise children's safety. Staff now have clear procedures in place to identify and give appropriate support to children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

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:

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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):

- further develop the registers to include actual times of arrival and departure for children, staff and visitors.
- review knowledge of the new changes to local Safeguarding Children procedures and update policy to include a procedure to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.
- improve systems for the recording of complaints and ensure they are kept at the setting.

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