



Acorns Breakfast and After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122478
Inspection date	22 November 2006
Inspector	Carol Newman
Setting Address	Walton Oak School, Ambleside Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 3LN
Telephone number	01932 220751 01932 259604
E-mail	school@ambleside.surrey.sch.uk
Registered person	Acorns After School 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Acorns After School Club opened in 1999. It is a voluntary, committee run group that operates from the art room in Walton Oak School in Walton on Thames in Surrey.

A maximum of 24 children may attend the out of school club and a maximum of 48 children may attend the holiday play scheme, at any one time. The out of school club is open each weekday from 07:45 to 08:45 and 15:10 to 17:30, term time only. The holiday play scheme is open for two weeks at the end of the summer term and for a short time at Easter from 09:00 to 17:00. Children from surrounding schools are welcome at the holiday play scheme. Children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 39 children on the after school club roll. Children come from Walton Oak school for the breakfast club and after school provision. The out of school provision currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club employs fourteen members of staff at various times. Five of the staff, including the supervisor hold an appropriate playwork qualification. Five member of staff hold a current first aid certificate.

The setting receives support from the Early Years Childcare Service.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene and self care skills. They understand why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating food.

Parents give prior written consent to administer medication that ensures children would receive the correct dosage according to their needs. However, as this is an out of school provision, it is not normally necessary to administer medication. A suitable number of staff holds a current first aid certificate and the first aid box is well stocked. This means staff can give appropriate care if there is an accident and accident records are well maintained.

Nutritious breakfasts, such as cereal, toast and yoghurt or beans on toast, are provided for children. Children receive a range of healthy snacks at the after school provision. These include bread, tortillas with a range of fillings and fruit, encouraging children to develop healthy eating practices. The menu is regularly rotated to ensure variety throughout the week. Children who attend the holiday play scheme bring their own packed lunches. Staff request that unhealthy foods are omitted from packed lunches and parents are informed that packed lunches are not stored in the fridge. This contributes to the children's wellbeing.

Children can help themselves to a drink from the water cooler whenever they need one and staff encourage children to drink for the benefit of their health.

Children enjoy many opportunities to take part in physical play, both indoors and out.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Staff organise the indoor space effectively, allowing children to move around safely, freely and independently. Carefully selected toys ensure children have a good choice of well maintained and suitable resources that meet the needs of all ages that attend.

Good routines and gentle reminders help children learn about safety within the setting. There are very good systems in place for the safe arrival and departure of children. Children who attend the after school provision are escorted from the infant school and parents sign children out at the end of the session. Staff deployment is very good and guarantees children are well-supervised at all times.

Children and staff practise the emergency evacuation procedures on a regular basis. This helps children become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency.

Staff have a very sound knowledge of child protection issues. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of interesting activities such as table tennis, pool, competitions and art and craft. Children independently choose from a variety of resources that are easily accessible around the room. Children are well occupied, enthusiastic and stimulated throughout the after school session.

Children who attend the holiday play scheme become involved in themed activities such as "Healthy Food" and have the opportunity to write about their favourite activities. Talent shows at the end of the scheme improve the children's enjoyment, confidence and self-esteem.

Staff develop good relationships with children and know their individual needs. Children are confident and independent. Children develop a good awareness of right and wrong which is supported by the club rules. These are displayed in the setting and regularly revisited by the staff and children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff have a positive attitude towards diversity. Children become aware of their own and other cultures through a good range of resources. Staff encourage all children to participate in the activities provided. This ensures children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential.

Staff offer good support for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Staff take time to explain changes in the routine and to introduce visitors, so that all children have a happy secure time in the setting. Staff know the children well, which means they are able to meet and plan for children's individual needs.

Children enjoy each other's company and treat each other kindly. Good explanations help children learn right from wrong and teaches self-discipline. Children help to develop the club rules and this encourages them to take responsibility for their own behaviour.

A good partnership with parents contributes effectively to children's well-being while at the out of school club. However, parents are not given information regarding the activities available to the children, in order to enhance the positive relationships between home and the provision.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The premises layout is well organised and children are able to play outside at each session. Good induction training ensures staff understand the policies and procedures, so they can contribute to the safety and welfare of the children.

Children benefit from qualified and experienced staff who are very caring. The staff are committed to attending further childcare training and development courses. This helps them to reflect, monitor and improve the quality of the care and education they offer to all children.

All mandatory records are in place, confidential and well maintained. This guarantees the safe and effective management of the setting in order to promote children's welfare. Written policies and procedures guide the setting in their daily practice. This ensures children's needs are met and all relevant information is shared with parents. However some policies do not contain all necessary information and are not directly relevant to the setting.

A good two-way flow of information ensures continuity of care.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the group agreed to develop the staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection and equal opportunities issues. Staff have recently been on training to update their knowledge in these areas. This means that staff can now act in the best interests of the children.

In addition, the group agreed to include in the child protection procedures the action to be taken if an allegation is made against a member of staff. Some amendments have been made to the child protection policy. However, the policy still does not give sufficient information regarding the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff. This compromises the care on offer to the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration, there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take 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 good. 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 policies and procedures necessary for the safe and effective running of the club contain all the required information and are relevant to the setting, particularly with regard to Health and Hygiene and Child Protection
- ensure parents are given information regarding the activities available to the children to enhance the home/provision relationships.

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