



Stay and Play

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY276659
Inspection date	04 October 2006
Inspector	Shirley Ann Jackson
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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.

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?

Stay and Play out of school club operates from Lakeside Primary School in Cheltenham. The facilities include a club room, computer suite, two classrooms, toilets, enclosed outside play area and school playgrounds. The club serves pupils attending the school and is privately owned.

Stay and Play provide out of school care for 40 children aged between four and eight years old. There are 138 children on roll aged from four to 11 years who attend the club for a variety of sessions. The club is open between 08.00 and 08.55, and 15.10 and 17.45 from Monday to Friday during the school term. They are also open between 08.00 and 18.00 during school holidays. The group supports children with disabilities or learning difficulties and four children learning English as an additional language.

A team of eight staff work with the children. Of these, at least half are qualified to at least level 2. The owner-manager holds a level 3 qualification in Early Years Care and Education and

has completed a level 2 qualification in Playwork. There is always a member of staff present trained in first aid, child protection and food hygiene.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about positive hygiene through established daily routines. For example, they wash their hands before eating snack and after using the toilet. Staff have clear procedures in place for dealing with accidents and administering medication which promotes children's health and well-being. First aid equipment is readily available and a number of staff have received relevant training.

Children are offered healthy snacks in adequate quantities for their needs. These follow children's dietary requirements to ensure children stay healthy. However, the organisation of snack time is limited as there are not enough chairs for all children to eat together. Staff spend their time moving between the kitchen area and the tables. This does not promote a snack time experience which encourages children to learn table manners and develop independence. Children are not always able to freely help themselves to drinking water.

Children's good health is well supported as staff are aware of the need for regular outdoor activities. Children have frequent opportunities to play outside where they enjoy fresh air and physical activities. Each day there are outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example, as they play football and use stilts. Older children are aware of the limitations of the younger children and show a caring side. For example, when playing group skipping, they encouraged the younger children with shouts to "jump".

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. Overall there is enough space for the children to play, but this is not utilised effectively. When indoors children spend most of their time in the club room, even though other areas are available. This restricts children's movement and limits play space. Children are able to move safely within the indoor environment as staff supervise them well. However, when the children play outside on the playground and the school offers activity clubs, staff deployment is limited. This causes a potential risk to children's safety.

Children are well settled within the environment and can easily access some suitable resources. Indoors and outdoors, a range of good quality, safe, developmentally appropriate resources are offered. Other toys are always available on request and staff offer additional equipment to support individual children's play needs. Children learn to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe as they clear toys away before getting more out.

Children are unable to leave the building unsupervised, as the door is kept secure when children are present. Children are protected by staff who have a clear understanding of possible risks

to children's well-being. A number of staff are trained in child protection and are aware of how to put the correct procedures into practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at the club. Staff encourage them to participate in a suitable range of activities, such as, playing team games outside and board games indoors. This develops children's sense of working together as well as independently. Children's play is well supported by staff as they become involved to extend and develop it, for example, when using the arts and crafts resources. Through encouragement and praise children's self-esteem and confidence are raised.

Children have positive relationships with staff and with each other. Children are cared for in one large group, and occasionally spend time in two groups of younger and older children. This encourages a caring attitude from older children as they consider how their actions will affect the younger children, for example, when playing football.

Children make some choices about which activities they would like to take part in. During summer holidays children offer their own ideas for activities and staff include these in the plans. This makes children feel part of the group and builds self-esteem as their thoughts and ideas are respected. During summer holidays children join together with another club operating nearby. This gives them the opportunity to meet new children and to experience different activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children begin to develop a positive attitude to others as staff provide a small range of resources which positively reflect the wider community. They learn about the local community as they take part in team games during the summer holidays with another play scheme.

Children have positive relationships with staff and with their friends attending the group. Older children show care and concern for younger children. For example, when playing together older children negotiate turns well, encouraging the younger children to do the same. Children are well behaved and polite in response to the expectations of staff. Staff ensure they have consistent expectations by using a traffic light system to deal with challenging behaviour. In this environment children share and take turns.

Parents receive a useful booklet when they first approach the group. Sharing information is then ongoing through regular newsletters and a small notice board with useful leaflets. Parents are comfortable coming in to the group and chat happily to staff. Parents are pleased with the service offered and feel staff are friendly and approachable. However, the group does not have a complaints log in place which must be shared with parents on request.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Procedures for appointing and vetting staff are generally robust. Volunteers are supervised at all times to ensure that children are suitably protected.

Organisation of space is limited. The group has a number of rooms available, but these are not used effectively to give children space to play, to enjoy snack time and to move around more freely.

The staff team work well together giving children the support and encouragement to extend and develop their own play. Staff attend training for their own professional development and to further enhance the care the children receive. Staff are enthusiastic about letting children take the lead in what they want to do. For example, the children using the arts and crafts resources were left to reach their own conclusion with the available materials. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Policies and procedures are mostly up-to-date and readily available. However, the group does not have a written complaints log which must be made available to interested parties.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group agreed to improve the range and types of media with which children can express their creativity; and opportunities for children to extend creative opportunities for themselves, or act upon their own ideas and to improve the range and variety of food provided during snack time.

Children's health has improved as children are now offered a healthy and balanced variety of snack. Children have some access to a range of different media which they use as they want to. Children's ideas are sought for activities during the holidays.

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

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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):

- ensure children have access to drinking water at all times
- ensure staff deployment when playing outdoors limits the risk to children's safety
- improve organisation of the way available space is used and the way snack is offered
- produce a complaints log which is made available to interested parties

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