



## Latchkey Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	255169
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 November 2006
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<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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Latchkey Out of School Club opened in 1997 and operates from a church hall in Great Barr, Birmingham. It is situated in a residential area close to a busy main road. A maximum of 46 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open from 15:30 to 18:00 during term time. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 46 children aged from four to 11 years on roll. Children come from two local schools.

The club employs five members of staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications and two are working towards qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are clearly learning about hygiene as they routinely wash hands before snacks, after using the toilet and following messy activities. They are protected against infection due to a hygiene policy which is consistently implemented as staff maintain the premises in a clean condition. Owing to policies for sickness and the exclusion of children for infectious illnesses children's health is effectively protected. Procedures are followed for obtaining emergency medical treatment and staff hold current first aid qualifications.

Children are gaining a limited understanding of healthy eating. They are served with sandwiches and cobs with a range of fillings. However, crisps, biscuits and chips are regularly included and snacks of fruit or raw vegetables are not offered. Children's independence is promoted as they access jugs of water or squash available on the serving bar and all can have frequent drinks.

Children benefit from exercise daily as they play a wide range of games indoors. For example, team games including football and tennis are provided in the first floor hall and children have ample space to run around. Children also have opportunities to sit quietly while they watch television or read books.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment in which they are greeted in a friendly manner and examples of their work is displayed. There is ample space for all children to move around freely and large storage facilities ensure that risks to children are minimised as resources not required are kept out of reach. Toilets are maintained in a clean state and the kitchen is not accessed by children to ensure that they are protected. Children play with safe toys and resources which are purchased from reputable suppliers.

Children's security is effectively maintained due to the checking procedure as they arrive at the club. While other groups make use of the church facilities children remain in identified areas. Children are competently supervised at all times. For example, they are collected in small groups from local schools and towards the end of the session all remain in the base room while the trapdoor to the basement is open for putting away resources. Children are clearly learning about personal safety. For instance, they explain boundaries and parts of the premises that they are only allowed to access with supervision. Owing to fire drills children clearly explain procedures for leaving the building in an emergency.

Children's welfare is safeguarded due to comprehensive policies. Staff have good knowledge and understanding of procedures and are clear about their responsibility to keep children safe.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a child-friendly environment with a vast range of toys. Children confidently help themselves to resources and change activities as they wish. Their interest is clearly maintained as they experience a wide range of play opportunities. For example, they play at the computer and hand-held games and share board games. Children are learning to negotiate turns for some activities such as play at the computer.

Children are supported in developing imaginative play. For example, they dress in wide range of outfits and enjoy changing garments. In addition, they engage in pretend play with the role play kitchen as they prepare snacks. Children are clearly learning to share due to reminders from staff to treat others fairly. Staff interact freely with children throughout the session and this supports children in making requests for additional resources which they require. They are comfortable in the setting.

Children play in a lively atmosphere and they have fun. They express delight in playing with friends as they form relationships with others. They also have the freedom to relax as they wish. Children benefit from their attendance at the club.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued and their individual needs are met as they are all encouraged to join in with activities according to choice. Children are helped to gain an understanding of other cultures due to a large range of resources and through the celebration of festivals. Children are learning about disability as staff encourage all to accommodate the needs of others as they join in with activities.

Children are clearly learning about boundaries of behaviour due to staff's positive approach with frequent praise. Children are encouraged to be kind and they are rewarded with treats for effort in tidying away. Children are learning when behaviour is not acceptable due to time out sanctions. Additionally, children encourage others to adhere to rules to ensure that privileges are retained.

Good working relationships with parents are underpinned by staff's friendly approach. Before children attend written information is supplied and continuing feedback is given on a daily basis about children's experiences. A newsletter keeps parents informed about activities and changes every term. A policy folder is accessible and parents have clear information about the complaints procedure. Effective emergency procedures for the collection of children are in place. Children's care benefits from the partnership with parents.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are effectively protected due to procedures to ensure that they are suitable for working with children. There is good organisation for the care of children. All staff undergo an induction

with regular appraisals to ensure that they are gaining understanding of policies and procedures. Contingency arrangements in place for cover and staff carry out a range of procedures daily to ensure the smooth running of the club. A wide selection of resources is set out and put away daily. Cleaning is done and rooms checked for hazards before children's arrival. Snacks are prepared.

A vast bank of policies is available and reviewed at regular intervals. Newsletters are produced and the parent's board is kept updated. All documentation is in place. Children's individual records are stored securely and updated annually. Ofsted is informed about significant changes. Procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision are in place to promote children's welfare. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the provider was asked to make improvements with regard to records of attendance. This has been addressed and records are maintained to promote children's welfare. Improvements have also been made on the child protection policy and staff have good knowledge of procedures. This means that children's welfare is safeguarded

### **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 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):

- provide children with food that is nutritious.

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)