



Whizz Kids

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	305434
Inspection date	03 November 2006
Inspector	Sylvia Cornock
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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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Whizz Kids Out of School Club is one of four out of school facilities and is privately owned. It opened in 1994 and operates from a mobile unit within the grounds of Excalibur County Primary School, Alsager, Cheshire. The building consists of two rooms and all children share access to a secure outdoor play area. A maximum of 32 children aged from three to under eight years may attend the out of school club at any one time. The out of school club is open each weekday from 07.45 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 18.00 during term time.

There are currently 50 children aged from three to eight years on roll. The setting currently supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. There are no children who speak English as an additional language.

The out of school club employs two full-time and two part-time members of staff who work directly with the children. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is currently completing a childcare qualification.

The providers are members of '4 children' and Cheshire's Out of School Care Association (OSCA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a stimulating and hygienic environment. They thrive because staff follow effective procedures and practices which meet children's individual needs. These include effective cleaning systems to prevent the risk of cross infection, such as the use of anti bacterial spray for specific tasks. Children effectively learn the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines, for example, they wash their hands independently after outside play, after using the toilet and before snacks. All children attend to their own personal needs competently. A detailed sick child policy and procedure ensures parents and carers are kept fully aware of the group's responsibilities and that children are cared for sensitively and free from infection.

The very good levels of staff support help children gain a good understanding of staying healthy through themes and activities. Children have an excellent understanding of healthy foods and complete a frieze of healthy eating options which is prominently displayed on the wall. All children enjoy healthy snacks, such as raw vegetables, salads, pita bread and various dips which staff prepare for their snacks. Children are actively involved in the planning of the weekly menu, means that healthy eating is observed at all times. Children can help themselves to drinking water throughout the session; this promotes their health and development.

Children's physical development is promoted extremely well as an excellent range of planned and spontaneous physical activities enables them to explore and extend their capabilities. They show excitement as they venture into the outdoors and confidently use the fort and large apparatus which develops their climbing and balancing skills. They have great fun and enjoy playing 'tag' with a member of staff as they weave in and out of the various structures in the adventure play area. Children are encouraged to practise their developing skills, as they participate in a variety of outdoor ball games under the supervision of a sports coach. They have many good opportunities to explore both the indoor and the outdoor environment, and are supported extremely well by the staff working alongside them during play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety and well-being is promoted through the well prepared play space and activities provided. They have access to an excellent range of clean, safe and well organised equipment. Toys and equipment are suitable for different ages and abilities, meeting children's individual needs effectively. Children develop independence as they select from the easily accessible equipment.

Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff are extremely vigilant and use thorough risk assessments to reduce potential hazards. The rooms are prepared to enable children to select their chosen activity with excellent resources to further develop children's

enjoyment and learning. Staff have a very good understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits and how to involve children effectively in organising their environment. This is to allow children opportunities to learn some sense of danger and knowledge about how to protect themselves from harm. Children learn to keep themselves safe through discussion with staff. For example, the children learn about the importance of evacuating the premises in an emergency and undertake regular practise.

The children are protected from hazards and dangers, as good safety procedures are in place. Staff have an awareness of the policies and procedures that are in place regarding child protection. However, they are unaware of their responsibility to implement the policies and procedures in the absence of the designated member of staff and the policy document does not include the telephone numbers of the local social services and police. This compromises children's safety and well-being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are enthusiastic, happy and settled as they take part in an extensive range of interesting play and learning opportunities, providing stimulating and interesting challenges. Children are engaged in a range of superb purposeful activities, such as imaginative play, computer games, table top games, physical outdoor activities and reading. The children show excellent imagination and have great fun as they design pictures of fireworks in the night sky using different art and craft techniques. They are proud to show their creations to staff and visitors and other work which is attractively displayed. This promotes children's imagination, creativity and free expression in their artwork.

Children have a sense of belonging, they are involved in the planning of the activities and the daily routines and discuss future events and activities for their club. A staff member chooses a child to explain the planned programme of activities for the session, other children listen and make choices with a number choosing the adventure play area. They help one another as they engage in the many and varied activities, such as sharing and creating objects as they build and design with construction kits. Children are confident and eager to learn in a comfy relaxing environment with energetic and enthusiastic staff. Children enjoy the well organised outings which are planned for the holiday club, enabling them to experience a variety of activities and challenges away from the setting, this enhances their learning in a fun way. They are able to access a computer and use the adjoining quiet room to complete home work if they wish.

Children are extremely confident and self-assured and are highly motivated as they receive lots of praise, encouragement and contact from the staff, this means that they feel safe and secure in the care of familiar adults. The staff are very knowledgeable about the children and they use this information well to meet their needs. Children are well supported through high quality adult-child interaction. This helps children to learn and develop their skills.

Children's physical development is promoted through indoor and outdoor activities which provide high levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. They show expressions of excitement and satisfaction at their achievements as they skilfully use the outside adventure area, climbing and balancing with precision. Staff and children plan highly effective

activities and experiences which in practice has a positive effect on the quality of children's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed and play a full part in the out of school club because staff value and respect their individuality. Children's behaviour is exemplary as staff give them plenty of praise and support for their efforts and achievements. Staff meet individual needs well with regard to behaviour management, offering a clear and consistent approach which takes into account children's maturity and level of understanding of behaviour. Children respond well and as a result show a growing awareness of right and wrong. They have been involved with writing the rules which represents their beliefs in how to engage in good behaviour. This has a positive impact on their confidence and self-esteem. Children are polite, they share resources and take turns well, showing consideration for one another. This is supported by the behaviour management policy and the systems implemented by staff, who act as very good role models, showing respect and consideration for children and each other.

The children have effective opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them, through planned activities and various themes. Good resources, posters and activities ensure children have a positive approach and promotes their understanding of equality of opportunity. Positive images are displayed attractively around the environment. Children celebrate a range of festivals throughout the year which incorporates the different nationalities, for example, opportunities to look at customs and festivals, such as Chinese New Year. Children with additional needs receive appropriate care and education from staff, who liaise closely with their parents. This ensures all children make rapid progress with their development and maximises opportunities for their learning.

Children benefit greatly from the excellent partnership with parents and carers. Children's individual needs and requirements are discussed carefully and in detail with parents and carers prior to placement and on an ongoing basis. Daily verbal feedback on their child's day keeps parents and carers well informed on their child's development. Parents and carers are given good quality written information on the policies and procedures, this enhances good relationships and supports children's welfare, safety and learning. Children have equal access to the play activities ensuring they are all valued and included. Staff are knowledgeable about the children's individual needs. These are well met in practice by familiar and consistent staff.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are cared for within a well planned and organised environment. The staff are very clear about their role and responsibilities in providing a high quality service to the children and their family. Children benefit from the very good leadership of the out of school club and the consistency of staff working well together, ensuring that children are provided with good quality care. This means that children are cared for in a positive and supportive environment, which effectively promotes their social and moral development. Staff are well qualified and have much

relevant experience. This has a positive effect on children's care and welfare. Staffing levels are organised to ensure that ratios are high, enabling the children to have a good level of attention and support.

Children access toys, equipment and activities which are well planned and prepared prior to the children arriving; enabling the children to feel welcome, confident and happy. Children are involved in a range of interesting and age-appropriate activities.

All legally required documentation and records relating to the children are retained ensuring that the staff are able to care for children in a safe and confident manner.

The provider makes rigorous checks to ensure staff suitability, before they are employed. This ensures that the children are well safeguarded. Policies and procedures are effectively in place and contribute to positive outcomes for children. Space and resources are organised well to promote children's safety and care.

Overall, 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 setting were asked, to ensure that children's medical conditions are kept confidential and all records of medication administered countersigned by parents. The staff have introduced a system which ensures that all children's records are stored confidentially in a locked cabinet and that all entries in the medication records are countersigned by parents or carers. They were also asked to ensure space is used effectively and children are grouped appropriately. The staff have reviewed and redesigned the available space into different activity and learning areas allowing all children free access to their chosen activity, in appropriate grouping. The introduction of these measures promotes children's safety, well-being and learning.

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):

- ensure staff are aware of how to implement the policies and procedures regarding child protection in the absence of the designated member of staff and that the telephone number for the local social services and police are included in the written statement.

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