

Chulmleigh Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 155320

Inspection date 09 November 2006

Inspector Valerie Button

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Registered person Chulmleigh Out of 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Chulmleigh Out of School Club provides care for the children of Chulmleigh Primary School and of other primary school age children living in the local community, if vacancies permit. The club was first registered in 2001 to provide care for up to 24 children, aged from four to eight years old. Children up to the age of 12 years old may attend. The club is open each week day during term time and offers a breakfast club between 08.00 and 09.00 and an after school club between 15.30 and 18.00. It is run by a committee of volunteers who are either parents, school staff or governors.

There are currently 93 children on roll, aged from four to 12 years old. The group includes those with recognised additional needs. There are no children currently attending for whom English is an additional language.

The daily running of the club is managed by a play leader assisted by at least one helper. None of the permanent staff currently working at the club have appropriate qualifications, but two members of staff are currently following play work courses at Level 3. Some temporary staff do hold Level 3 and Level 2 qualifications. The centre of activities is the school hall and there is access to the playground for outdoor play. Breakfast is provided in the morning sessions and a substantial snack after school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is safeguarded because at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate is always present. Parents have signed permission for staff to seek emergency medical treatment, although permission for advice is lacking. A first aid box is readily available. Staff complete suitable accident and medication records and take note of information about children's health and dietary needs. Children learn about the importance of personal hygiene, for example, when they wash their hands before eating. They know they must put their coats on to play outside. All children have regular opportunities to learn about being healthy by enjoying exercise and time spent in the fresh air.

Children have a healthy diet at the club. A substantial snack is served at the after school club, for example, jacket potatoes, with toppings; eggs or beans on toast, as well as fruit and a drink. At the breakfast club children enjoy cereals and toast. All children are expected to sit quietly at the breakfast table; if they want nothing to eat then they enjoy a drink and a quiet time before the start of the busy school day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in an environment which provides plenty of space, both indoors and out. They enjoy access to sufficient, safe resources to use, both indoors and out. Kitchen facilities in the hall are suitably clean and maintained. Safe procedures enable children to use the suitable, school toilet facilities. The premises, particularly outside, cannot be made completely secure. However, children are kept safe because at least one member of staff is always supervising outside and children are taught to stay within designated, safe areas. Entry to the inside is monitored by the school and, late in the day, when no other school staff are present, doors are locked and a bell sounds in the hall to alert staff that someone wishes to enter. The current system for registering the attendance of children and staff fails to provide secure information on the times when they are on the premises. Risk assessments are in place, though some information is out-of-date. The club has given careful consideration to procedures to be followed in the event of a power cut after dark: the school's emergency lighting system would operate, but staff ensure a powerful torch is available to use outside. Child protection procedures are in place. The club works in partnership with the school to ensure that children are adequately protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy using a satisfactory range of activities. They enjoy interacting with each other, for example, when playing outside; and with staff, for example, when leaf-printing. Staff are interested in children's activities and comments. Plans for activities are basic, but a satisfactory environment is prepared and ready for the children to use. Suitable routines are followed, at both the breakfast club and the after school club, to enable children to rest for a time, for example, at the breakfast table, and be active. Children benefit from the provision of worthwhile activities, such as indoor games, table football or creative activities. They choose to play outside for much of the session. Active play is encouraged by the provision of equipment, such as balls, scooters and stilts. Children enjoy playing outside till dusk.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Observed practice indicates that children have equal access to facilities and resources. Children's individual needs are supported by satisfactory systems to give staff necessary information, for example, about any food allergies or special dietary requirements. Staff engage children in activities that follow their particular interests, for example, a collage activity about tractors involved children and was very well supported by interested staff. The group soundly supports children with additional needs. Behaviour management procedures are satisfactory, with children being reminded about the rules of the club as they meet together at the start of sessions. The club aims to increase staffing levels, if this is necessary to support children who demonstrate challenging behaviour. Reasons for simple rules are explained, for example, why it is not safe to run indoors or why shoes and socks should always be worn. Good manners are expected at meal times. The partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. Parents receive regular information about the club, for example, in school newsletters. They sign to confirm their agreement to uphold the club's constitution when registering their children for care; expectations are clearly set out. The brochure for parents contains a lot of useful information. However, some of this information is not current, for example, information on how to contact Ofsted, as the regulator of the provision. The Complaints Record is not yet based on the National Standards. Questionnaires for both parents and children invite comments about the service provided, which the club endeavours to respond to. The friendly relationships between staff and parents, for example, when they collect their children from the club, supports the children's care on an informal level.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children enter a school hall that is prepared and ready for them. They are always supervised by at least two members of staff. There have been recent staffing difficulties at the club; advertisements have failed to attract a response and current permanent staff lack qualifications. However, two staff are currently training and it is hoped that appropriate qualifications will be gained by April 2007. Temporary bank staff, some of whom are school staff, are also available to work at the club. These members of staff are appropriately qualified and are available to deputise, in the absence of the play leader. The management committee has produced staff rotas and has enabled the club to continue to provide satisfactory care for children. However, available information on staff is not comprehensive. All staff have Criminal Record Bureau checks, although some key staff lack other checks. Whilst most of the documentation needed to support the children's care and welfare is in place, some is out of date, for example, the brochure for parents lists Social Services as the registered body, instead of Ofsted and the contact number for Ofsted on the Complaints Procedure is out of date. Risk assessments state that children are cared for by qualified staff, when currently, this is not the case. The attendance register fails to accurately record when staff and children are present at the club; for example, the times that children arrive at the breakfast club are not entered, no times of arrival and departure are recorded for staff. However, times of children's departure from the after school club are entered. The means of checking who is on the premises at specific times is not always secure, and this compromises the children's safety.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection children's care has been improved by additions made to the medication policy and the child protection procedure. It is clear that parents sign the medication record to acknowledge when medication has been given to their children. Procedures are in place to be followed if allegations of abuse are made against a member of staff.

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 satisfactory. 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 that the register accurately records the times when children and staff are present
- ensure that documentation needed to support the children's care and welfare is regularly reviewed and up to date
- ensure that the complaints record is based on the National Standards.

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