



Rascals 2000

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 205422 |
| Inspection date | 15 November 2006 |
| Inspector | Diane Hancock |
| Setting Address | Ronkswood Community Centre, Canterbury Road, Worcestershire, WR5 1PJ |
| Telephone number | 01905 359578 |
| E-mail | |
| Registered person | Emma Louise Harding |
| 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Rascals 2000 Out of School club opened in 1995 and run by a private provider. It operates from the main hall and a second room in the Ronkswood Community Centre, Worcester. The setting serves children in the local community with collections from Nunnery Primary School and Ronkswood Infant and Junior School.

The group is registered to look after 40 children at any one time. There are currently 42 children on roll of whom 21 are aged under eight years. The group admits children from the age of four to 12 years. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term time. Sessions are from 15.00 until 18.00.

There are six members of staff who work with the children some of whom work part-time. Four staff hold an appropriate NVQ level 3 qualification and one holds an appropriate NVQ level 2

qualification. All staff undertake ongoing training and receive support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Good hygiene practices are in place regarding cleanliness of the kitchen, surfaces and rooms to ensure children are cared for in a clean and tidy environment. The children have good routines in place with regular hand washing on arrival at the club before they sit down to eat their snacks. This procedure is well supervised by staff to ensure a high standard of hygiene. All records are in place regarding children's health care are in place however procedures for obtaining parental consent for administering medication are unclear and compromises children's health. Records are kept in an alphabetical order for easy reference and all staff are qualified in first aid to ensure children receive appropriate medical attention in an emergency. All children are cared for appropriately when children are ill by sitting in a quiet area and being supported until a carer can arrive.

Children benefit from fresh air and exercise as they walk to the club after school on a daily basis. There is good use of the hall for a variety of physical activities which the children can choose to take part in. Children enjoy the exercise they receive from activities such as football, badminton, uni-hockey and dancing to music are popular. Whole group games are also organised to promote physical exercise and the children enjoy these activities.

Children benefit from the regular routine of snack and drink after school. A wide variety of snacks is provided such as sandwiches, toast, cakes and crisps, with individual preferences such as brown bread and dietary requirements being catered for. Children have a choice of squash or water to meet their individual preferences. Children enjoy sitting at the table and eating their snack as a social snack time together. They take responsibility as they help tidy away cups after they have eaten.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Accidents are kept to a minimum due to appropriate safety procedures and risk assessments. Children are well supervised especially while using equipment and doing physical activities. Children are engaged and respect the rules and routines to ensure a safe environment. Equipment is in good condition and replaced when appropriate. Children have a good understanding of safety through routines and procedures in place for example when walking back from school, moving around the building and fire drills. Children are well supervised from one room to another to ensure a secure environment.

Children help tidy away toys to maintain a safe environment. Resources are stored in a safe and organised manner. There is good use of the areas for play with the hall being primarily used for physical activities and large group games to ensure children's safety.

Good adult to child ratios ensure children are well supervised. Access to the room is monitored at the group however there is no record of visitors, which potentially compromises children's well-being. Staff have a good knowledge of child protection as all members have undertaken additional training and local procedures are easily accessible however the settings written procedures lack detail potentially compromising children's welfare. Staff work well with other agencies to support children and families when needed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy as they play with a good variety of toys and games of their choice in a relaxed environment. Children of all ages participate well in a good range of activities such as crafts, physical games, board games, computer games, role play and construction toys. There is a good range of toys and these are rotated to maintain interest. Staff know the children well and ensure they cater for the children's interests and meet their preferences ensuring different activities on different nights of the week. Children have opportunities to play together with their own resources such as trading cards. Children enjoy mostly free play but also participate in structured or group activities, discussions and physical or party games. Children enjoy football and all sport activities such as uni-hockey, badminton and dance activities which are provided most evenings.

Children concentrate well and become engrossed in their play as they develop their creative skills and imaginations when doing activities such as crafts, drawing and lego. Children's creative work is valued as pictures and cards are displayed on the wall. There is good use of space to ensure children can have quiet areas for reading, drawing and homework. Children play very well together, they share resources well and take turns under supervision at the computer. Children from a wide age range participate in all activities, they get on well together and form friendships. Older children help look after the younger children and ensure they are included in activities. Children from the two schools play very well together as they develop good social skills. A consistent staff group helps staff to develop good relationships with the children some of whom have been coming for many years and form close friendships. Children enjoy the company of staff who share a sense of humour with them and join in with activities such as crafts and board games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Staff have good relationships with parents and spend time talking with them in a friendly approachable manner at the end of the day. Staff provide advice and support to parents when appropriate and parents are kept up-to-date regarding achievements such as regarding behaviour. A welcome handbook ensures parents are aware of the terms and conditions and some policies however some of these are not actively shared with parents such as child protection, behaviour and the new complaints procedures. Staff have not implemented regulatory changes regarding the complaints procedures and there is no system for recording complaints resulting in parents not being fully informed. Children and parents benefit from the good liaison

that staff have with teachers at the school. Parents report that the children enjoy coming to the group.

Staff know the children well, especially their interests and cater for their preferences as they set up activities and games that they know the children coming will enjoy. Many of the children have been coming a long time and the stable staff group ensures that they consistently meet their needs. New children settle quickly as staff provide support and reassurance. Children with special needs receive support. All children have free choice of activities regardless of age, ability or gender. Younger children are well supported during activities. Children learn about different cultures through a variety of resources and enjoy crafts activities relating to different festivals.

Children are well behaved and relate well to one another. They demonstrate good social skills, cooperate and take turns. Children respect the rules and routines and they are kept busy. Children respond well to praise and strategies such as 'star of the day' where certain children receive a reward for good behaviour. Staff work well with parents to address any changes in behaviour and children make good progress.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Staff have not kept up-to-date with regulatory changes regarding documentation and therefore do not meet regulations. Although there are no new staff the current recruitment policies and procedures have not been updated and potentially compromises children's well-being. Some documentation is well-organised and stored in a confidential and secure manner.

The group is well organised regarding ensuring a good variety of resources are available for all ages, planning some creative activities and providing a variety of snacks for the children. The group is smoothly run with suitable routines in place. The staff have made improvements to the organisation of the rooms making better use of the space to ensure a better quality service is provided.

Children benefit from the motivated, committed and caring staff group. The team work well together and there is good deployment of skills to ensure each uses their strengths within the group. The staff are well qualified and experienced to look after children. They have undertaken additional short courses to improve their knowledge such as in food hygiene and behavioural management. The children benefit from the whole staff group attending training to ensure a consistent approach to managing behaviour.

Overall the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection the provider was asked to devise a procedure to be followed in the event of a child being lost and a procedure to be followed for when an allegation is made against a member of staff. Some progress has been made such as policy regarding lost children and allegation against staff has been implemented to meet regulations. However other procedures and policies such as child protection, behaviour, recruitment and medication where

asked to be updated and shared with parents, this has not happened and therefore does not meet the National Standards and regulations. Improvements have been made regarding the recording of staff and children's attendance times in a register to ensure children's safety however the attendance of visitors has not been recorded.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- develop policies and procedures such as recruitment, child protection, behaviour and medication to meet the regulations and the National Standards requirements and share these with parents
- update the complaints procedure and keep a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken
- devise and implement a system for recording the attendance of visitors.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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