



# Dolphins After School & Holiday Club

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	105852
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 December 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Sally Hall
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<b>Registered person</b>	Dolphins Holiday & After School Club
<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?

Dolphins After School and Holiday Club is registered to provide out of school care for 40 children from four years to under eight years; children over the age of eight can also attend. There are currently 130 children on roll. The club is managed by a voluntary committee and six members of staff are employed including a manager and deputy. The staff working directly with the children have relevant childcare qualifications or are working towards them.

Dolphins operates on the site of Pinhoe Church School, on the eastern edge of Exeter. The club has its own rooms within a mobile unit and also uses the school hall. There are toilets within the mobile unit and a kitchen area at one end of one of the rooms. The school playgrounds are also available.

Dolphins is open Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 09:00 and from 15:15 to 18:00 during term time, and from 08:30 to 18:00 during holidays. Children bring a packed lunch, and breakfast and morning and afternoon snacks are provided.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are familiar with the importance of good hygiene procedures and actively help to keep the premises clean. For example, they clear the tables prior to meals. Children are well cared for in the event of accidents. Staff have valid first aid certificates, they are aware of the importance to record accidents and have recently reviewed all consents for seeking emergency advice or treatment. Children's medical needs are known and carefully followed in consultation with parents.

Children attending the breakfast club have a healthy breakfast provided with snacks of fresh fruit provided during the day. Children attending the holiday club bring a packed lunch. Children are eager to prepare fruits for snack time and have a choice of a variety of fruits. They help themselves to drinks at meal times and during the session. Good social skills are encouraged at meal times with the children all sitting together. Children have opportunities of physical activities in the school grounds and have a range of equipment to select to encourage their development. They have formed their own football team.

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

The provision is good.

Children have use of designated rooms to play, which are set up with a range of equipment that is easily accessible. They are able to access the toilets easily as they are in the lobby area. Children are supervised well at all times whilst being able to independently moving between the two rooms accessing all the resources and activities. Children's work is displayed on the walls. Resources are rotated to provide variety and they borrow equipment from the Toy Library.

Overall, risk assessments have been completed to ensure children are safe, however, there are hazards that could pose a risk to children, for example, trailing flexes. Visitors to the setting are clearly recorded and staff monitor times and departures of the children very well. Regular fire drills procedures are conducted which the children are familiar with. Children playing in the school grounds are supervised at all times and wear fluorescent jackets.

Children are further protected by the staff's secure knowledge of child protection. They have completed training and intend to keep their knowledge regularly up-dated by attending further courses. They have reviewed their child protection policy and have relevant information to refer should the need arise.

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

The provision is good.

Children engage well in their play and enjoy working in groups and independently. They freely access resources and make their own games for example, through role-play making dens and puppet shows. They have a good range of craft activities provided and all children are encouraged to participate. They are encouraged to be creative, use their own ideas and have

a range of materials to use including natural resources. Children are proud of their work and show interest in each others work. Staff take an active interest in what the children are doing and are skilful in encouraging them to express themselves and use their own imagination.

Children bring in their favourite toys and have use of a Playstation. They know that time is limited to give every one an equal turn and are also encouraged to use the planned activities. Children's likes and dislikes are known and staff gently engage them in play opportunities. The children interact very well together and enjoy seeing their school friends. Children have a varied range of craft activities organised at each session, make up their own games and do cooking. They are confident to ask for additional resources.

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

The provision is good.

Children are extremely confident and happy they have a very good rapport with each other and members of staff. They are confident to approach staff with any concerns and receive a sensitive understanding response from caring staff. They receive plenty of praise and encouragement and listen well to instructions. Staff know children's individual needs very well. They know their likes and dislikes and are very aware of the importance of inclusion and ensure all children's needs are fully met. They have resources to use to raise their awareness of diversity and use the Toy Library to provide resources for children with disabilities and adapt activities and encourage them to participate in group games.

Children behave well; they learn the importance to be thoughtful and caring to each other and to be respectful. The club rules are displayed, which the children help to draw up and they know and can tell you what is expected. Staff are consistent in how they deal with behaviour management, this ensures consistency for the children.

Children's parents are kept well informed on a daily basis. Staff will contact them during the session if it is necessary, particularly when caring for children with medical needs. Parents receive regular newsletters and minutes of the committee meetings. They have information clearly displayed on the notice board in the foyer.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by staff that are committed and enthusiastic and work well as a team following staff changes. Sessions are organised well to provide variety and challenge for children. Children are confident and keen to express themselves and have fun whilst being supervised well.

Children's records have recently been reviewed. Staff are aware of the importance to have all relevant information to support children's placements and very aware of the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Policies and procedures have recently been reviewed to ensure they meet the standards and regulations so that staff and parents are fully informed of daily procedures. Staff are encouraged to attend training courses and have staff appraisals and regular liaison with the committee.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the previous inspection one recommendation was made to improve policies. These have been reviewed to ensure they meet the standards and regulations. This has ensured that staff have all the relevant information to refer to and share with parents.

### **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):

- review safety to minimise risks to children

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)