



Rascals

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY216773
Inspection date	30 November 2006
Inspector	Julie Firth
Setting Address	Broadheath Primary School, Sinderland Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 5JQ
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Registered person	Beverley Jane Rennie
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Rascals Out of School club was registered in 2002. It operates from Broadheath Primary School in the area of Trafford. The club serves the children attending the school and the local area. Children have access to the dining hall, main school hall, quiet room and a secure outdoor play area.

The group opens five days a week during school term times from 15:20 until 18:00 and during school holidays from 08:00 until 18:00. A maximum of 50 children may attend the club at any one time and there are currently 137 children aged from three to under 11 years on roll. The club supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities, and children who speak English as an additional language.

There are seven part-time staff who work with the children and five of these have an early years qualification to NVQ level 2 or 3. Other staff are working towards a qualification. The club receives support from Sure Start in Trafford.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Excellent hygiene routines and clear explanations increase children's understanding of the importance of washing their hands to help maintain good health. Children fully understand how germs can affect their bodies and make them ill if they do not wash hands. Children are well protected from illness and infection because the staff conscientiously follow current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines. Their health and wellbeing is further protected by staff implementing excellent hygiene practices, such as wearing gloves when preparing children's snacks. They complete health and safety training to update their knowledge and awareness of regulations.

Daily indoor and outdoor routines include activities to help children develop their physical and gross motor skills and promote a healthy lifestyle. They make good use of the school hall, the outdoor playground and fields using the parachute and organising treasure hunts. Sports coaches are asked to attend the club in the school holidays. Individual children gain confidence, test out their coordination and organisation skills in team games, such as basketball, football and dodge ball.

The staff are aware of healthy eating and have a very good understanding of food nutrition, which is evident through planned menus. Snacks, such as salads, cheese, brown bread, crumpets and fruits, are available daily to the children. They enjoy making fruit kebabs and their thirst is quenched by the children freely and independently accessing drinking water. Snack time enhances their social skills and involves them in food preparation. The children's dietary requirements are met well as staff work with parents in finding out their child's requirements and respectfully follow these.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, stimulating environment. The rooms and outdoor play area are extremely well organised, ensuring a balanced range of activities for children. Children move around confidently in a safe environment where risks are identified, minimised and procedures are reviewed at staff meetings. Staff have an excellent understanding of the health and safety policies and how to keep children safe. They ensure children are very well supervised indoors and when out on trip. There are tight procedures for signing children in and out of the club ensuring they are accounted for at all times. Children are learning to keep themselves safe through exceptional planned activities, such as participating in road safety week. They demonstrate an understanding of emergency escape procedures and practise fire drills regularly.

An excellent range of well maintained toys and equipment stimulate children's interests and supports their learning extremely well. They develop independence as they choose from equipment, which is easily accessed on low tables or at floor level around the room. Children have an awareness of the equipment available for them to play with and confidently ask for

toys that are not out. The resources are clean, safe and well maintained to ensure the children's safety.

Children are well protected because the staff have an excellent knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. They are fully aware of her responsibilities to safeguard children's welfare in line with the Local Children's board. Policies are very clear and effectively shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children talk positively about their experiences in the club. There are wonderful relationships throughout the setting producing a happy environment. This increases the children's sense of trust and friendships. They thoroughly enjoy the time they spend in the club and benefit from the excellent range of inspiring and challenging activities provided for them. Activities in the club follow a long term and weekly programme with regular new themes introduced. Themes, such as safety, friendships, circus skills and the environment are all exceptionally linked to the child's development, helping to engage the children's interest and keep them highly stimulated. Children contribute to the well devised plans and they enjoy leaf rubbing, baking, bug hunting, nail and hair design, balloon modelling and creating their own board game. Older children show a high level of enthusiasm when looking after younger children and their siblings, helping them to settle and become confident.

Children gain excellent first hand experiences and knowledge of the local environment when visiting the local parks and when on planned trips during the school holidays. Photographs show children going bowling, to the cinema and entering the spooky adventure maize during the theme of Halloween. A good selection of board games and the use of the games console, pool table and air hockey table help children to achieve better levels of concentration and encourage them to take turns. Their imaginary skills are enhanced as they play with the princess castle, dress up, role play in the travel agents, organising a pyjama party and when making springy spiral snakes. Children are well supervised and relate extremely well to the dedicated staff. They know the children very well and respond efficiently to their likes and dislikes. Staff encourage children to read for pleasure and they choose from a good range of books which they can take and read quietly. They fully question the children and allow them to speak about their day. During activities, they are constantly asking about colours and numbers with the younger children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are welcomed on arrival to the club; they are valued and respected as individuals. The staff are superb role models and there are very good strategies in place for achieving appropriate behaviour. Children are encouraged to share and play harmoniously which results in good behaviour. They contribute to the making of ground rules and they are aware that certain rules and respect are required to maintain a safe and fair environment, where they can play happily and have fun. Highly effective activities around anti bullying encourage children to make friends.

This is evidenced by the high levels of respect and care they show to each other. A reward system is in place promoting positive behaviour and children strive to help each other and take great delight when obtaining certificates, badges and winning a prize in the lucky dip. Staff promote children's self-esteem and confidence as they praise their efforts and make space around the club to display their work.

There is an excellent range of toys, resources and activities in place that reflect equality of opportunity. The staff work with the children to help them learn about different cultures and organise food tasting from different countries. Children are engrossed in making flags from around the world, conga snakes from Cuba, Jamaican bracelets and Egyptian masks. Staff encourage the children to think about how each other are feeling and encourage them to think about diversity around the environment. The staff have a wealth of experience and excellent understanding of disability and inclusion. They attend training specific to children's health and individual needs so that children are exceptionally well cared for. They work very close with the parents and the outside agencies.

Partnership with parents is excellent and staff continuously promote highly effective working relationships. The information for parents contains comprehensive details of all childcare policies and procedures. A notice board displays information about day to day events within the club and they receive verbal feedback on a daily basis about their child's activities and care. Parents are aware of the new complaints procedure and they are welcomed to discuss any concerns with the staff. They are actively involved in the evaluation of the care their children are receiving. Parents are extremely happy with the care provided by the club. This effective communication between parents and staff helps to promote children's welfare, safety and developmental progress, and provides consistency and care for all children.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The manager is extremely committed to improving the quality of care the club provides for the children. She has clear aims and objectives and ensures staff are qualified, consistent and also continue to attend regular training in order to ensure highly effective childcare. She liaises well with the deputy manager, and staff are very aware of their responsibilities as team members and work extremely well as a team, responding to the children's needs. They have an excellent understanding of the National Standards and continuously monitor and evaluate their practice. Meticulous planning is in place and activities offer children good levels of stimulation and challenge. The staff work hard organising the environment before the children enter the club and there is a comprehensive operational plan in place demonstrating that staff regard the well-being of all children. Rigorous, robust recruitment and vetting procedures are in place to ensure children's safety.

Records and documentation are highly detailed to ensure that the health, safety and welfare of each child is paramount. Comprehensive policies are regularly revised and shared with parents.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

On the last inspection the group were asked to ensure that fire drills are carried out each term and recorded appropriately. To provide evidence of named drivers and have relevant documentation for transport.

The fire drills are now carried out once a term, during the holidays and recorded appropriately. The documentation for vehicle insurance and the named drivers are in place.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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