



St Joseph's Before and After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY239518
Inspection date	13 December 2006
Inspector	Elaine Murray
Setting Address	St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School, Moreton Road, Upton, Wirral, CH49 6LL
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Registered person	St Joseph's Out of School Management Committee
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?

St Joseph's Before and After School Club is managed by a voluntary management committee, made up of parents of children at the club and members of the local community. It opened in 2002 and operates from the hall and playgroup room within St Josephs Roman Catholic Primary School, Upton, Wirral. A maximum of 40 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open Monday to Friday from 07.45 until 08.50 and from 15.40 until 18.00 during school term times. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 38 children aged from four to under eight years on roll. Children come from the local area. The club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club employs five staff. Three staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Staff plan a wide variety of opportunities to develop children's physical skills. As a result, children are learning to enjoy exercise and develop control of their bodies. Staff make use of indoor facilities to give children chances to enjoy exercise when the weather is unsuitable for outdoor play. Children happily play with hoops, table tennis and enjoy an energetic dancing game led by staff. The outdoor area is regularly used for activities such as ball games and skipping.

Children show an awareness of simple hygiene procedures as they routinely wash their hands before snack and after using the toilet. Staff follow hygienic procedures as they clean surfaces and equipment, helping to protect children from the spread of germs. They wear protective gloves when preparing snacks, helping to ensure that food is prepared hygienically. Several staff have up-to-date first aid training, helping to meet children's needs in the event of an accident or emergency.

Children learn to enjoy a healthy diet as they are provided with varied and nutritious snacks, including fresh fruit. Children describe how they enjoy eating wraps with salad, and different sorts of fruit. A jug of fresh drinking water is readily available for children at all times, helping to ensure their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment which helps them feel secure. The club has its own notice board within the main hall which has a display of children's art work. Resources are organised so that children can access them freely and move around safely. Space is appropriately used, with an area set aside for children to rest or carry out quiet activities. The range of toys and equipment are suitable for different ages and abilities, meeting children's needs effectively.

Staff take some effective measures to ensure children's safety indoors and outdoors. They make a daily safety check of the premises and outdoor area. Risk assessments identify potential hazards and action is taken to minimise the risk to children. Children learn to keep themselves safe through discussion with staff, for example, about carrying out physical activities safely in the hall. Children learn to keep themselves safe in the event of a fire through practising the fire evacuation procedure. However, this is not always recorded.

Children are protected as staff have a satisfactory knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and hold relevant contact numbers.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive happily at the club and are content and secure. They have positive relationships with staff, talking with them about their interests and experiences. Staff interact well with children to sustain their interest, ensuring that children are occupied and involved. They follow children's interests in choosing and carrying out tasks, helping to develop children's confidence and self-esteem. Staff support children well in card making activities and join in their games. They provide one to one support at times, for example, when sharing a book with a child. Children confidently select their own resources and request activities. They enjoy the wide range of activities provided. Children show interest and involvement in card making, dressing up, table football, reading, board games, physical play with hoops and table tennis.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff work appropriately to meet children's individual needs. They ensure all are included and have equal access to resources to make their own choices. This helps to promote children's confidence and independence. Children are encouraged to contribute to the club, for example, in giving their ideas for a Christmas art work display. This promotes their self-esteem and sense of belonging. Children develop an awareness of diversity and the wider community through a generally good selection of resources and activities that promote positive images. They develop an awareness of different cultures and beliefs through creative work relating to festivals, such as Diwali.

Children with additional needs are appropriately included and supported. Staff have a calm, positive and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour. They act as good role models, showing respect and consideration for children and each other. As a result, children behave well.

Staff have established positive relationships with parents and share information with them at the end of sessions. Staff have recently devised a handbook to be given to parents, which has helpful information about the setting and policies and procedures. Information from parents about children's requirements is used appropriately to meet their needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff are deployed effectively to meet ratios and support children's well-being and development. Staff are committed and enthusiastic. They work well together to ensure that children are appropriately cared for and that their enjoyment and achievement is well promoted. An appropriate appointments and vetting procedure is in place which ensures that those who work with the children are checked for their suitability. Most records are in place, ensuring continuity of care for children. Space and resources are soundly organised to promote children's safety, care and learning. Most policies and procedures are comprehensive and work well in practice.

to ensure that children are well cared for. The procedure to be followed in the event of a child being uncollected is not fully effective.

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 was required to: improve vetting procedures; take steps to meet staff qualification requirements; make policies and procedures available to parents; improve arrangements for administering medication to children; develop the child protection procedure and the procedure for appointing new members of staff. These requirements have been met with positive effect on children's safety, welfare and learning.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 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 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 a record is kept of fire drills
- develop the procedure to be followed in the event of a child being uncollected, and ensure that this is shared with parents.

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