



## Schools Out Club - St Stephens

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY281273
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 August 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Sarah Jane Wignall
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<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?

Schools Out Club - St Stephens is a privately owned group. It opened in 2004 and operates from two rooms in St Stephens primary School. It is situated in the village of St Stephens. A maximum of 40 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 15:00 until 18:00 during term times and from 8:00 until 18:00 during school holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed play area.

There are currently 80 children from 3 to 8 years on roll. Children generally come from the local area. The setting currently supports a number of children with special

educational needs.

The club employs three staff. All staff have early years and play work qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. The person in charge holds an HND in play work. .

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene through rigorous daily routines. They wash their hands before eating or cooking, and they ensure long hair is tied back and aprons are on before making bread. Children benefit from access to a clean play environment. Staff complete daily checks of all areas to ensure they are clean and ready to use. Appropriate policies and procedures help to safeguard children when they are ill. Comprehensive accident records are in place and consents for emergency medical treatment and advice. Most staff hold an appropriate first aid certificate, and they have easy access to a well stocked first aid kit.

Children benefit from access to a healthy and varied range of mid day snacks and meals. Children are given a choice of fruit, cereals, toast and sandwiches, among other items. Occasional activities involve cooking and children enjoy eating items such as fruit kebabs or pizza. Packed lunches are eaten together at lunchtime. Children are encouraged to have regular drinks throughout the day and they can help themselves to ready prepared juices or water. Staff ensure they are fully aware of any special dietary needs or allergies.

Children enjoy regular access to the outdoor environment. They have access to a large school playground and sports field, where they spend time riding scooters, playing ball and other team games. Children make good use of the outdoors as they often take the indoors out, and enjoy making music or going on a treasure hunt in the fresh air.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in suitable, well organised premises. They have access to two good sized rooms in a self contained building. As a result they have created a club atmosphere, which is warm and welcoming. All areas used by children have been made safe and secure, for instance in the use of safety gates to restrict access to the kitchen area, and a secure entrance system. Staff undertake risk assessments and put in place measures to minimise any identified risk, such as barriers to deter children from venturing off the playground. Children learn the importance of fire safety as they participate in regular fire drills. Staff supervise children well, both inside and out.

Children are provided with a good range of toys and resources, which are well organised and easily accessible to them. Children use equipment safely, for instance

when they rearrange furniture in order to support their play. Staff complete regular checks of resources to ensure they are safe and suitable and do not present a hazard to young children. All resources are sorted, clearly labelled and stored appropriately, so that children can access them safely.

Children are protected by the staff's understanding of child protection procedures. A written policy is in place and staff are aware of action to take if concerned about a child in their care. There is no formal system in place in which to record existing injuries.

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

The provision is good.

Children clearly enjoy their time at the club. They have opportunities to develop and extend their own play, such as several children playing together in role play, and children planning and making a treasure hunt for the other children to participate in. They also have access to structured activities such as making bread, and other craft and creative projects. Children are very well settled and confident with both adults and other children. Children play well together and clearly enjoy being with friends, both old and new. Sessions are well planned to include both quiet and busy times, such as quiet activities like drawing or colouring after lunch, and regular opportunities for physical play outdoors.

Children are encouraged to follow their own interests and use their imagination in play. Some children developed an African village theme, where they were playing cooking on floor mats. This followed from a previous 'world' theme, where they had looked at different countries. Plans are in place, for both holidays and after school care, and demonstrate a good range of activities available. Children are given the choice of participating in planned activities, or continuing with their own games. Staff keep a diary where they reflect on and evaluate the success of sessions.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from consistent staff who have a good understanding of their individual needs. Staff are skilful at supporting children effectively in their play and knowing when to offer that support. They allow children to play together and do not try to over direct the play. If children lose interest they step in to offer an alternative activity, for instance a child was encouraged to help prepare a snack and another to play with a staff member in a game of castles and play people. Children gain an understanding of the wider world through access to a good range of books, posters and pictures. They celebrate success on their 'positive images' board, where images of women in non traditional roles and successful sports people from other cultures, are displayed. Children learn about, and participate in local community events such as the annual play day, and they learn about the natural world as they go on nature walks around the school grounds.

Children with special needs are well supported in the setting. Staff have a good understanding of their specific needs and liaise with parents in identifying these. All children are encouraged to fully participate in all club activities. Children behave well. They respond well to staff who are calm and consistent. Children clearly feel confident and settled at the club, and are aware of the expectations of staff. Staff create a positive environment, where children feel valued.

Children benefit from the professional relationship that staff have with parents. Parents have access to good quality written information and daily exchanges of information with staff on drop off or collection. They are kept informed of forthcoming topics and outings through information sheets.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a consistent and well qualified staff team, who are committed to improving and developing their practice. Sessions are very well organised, with clear staffing rotas in place. The person in charge has recently completed her HND in play work, and all other regular staff at the setting are qualified. The play environment is well organised, so that children can move around freely, and make independent play choices. Staff are all aware of their roles and responsibilities and sessions run well. Sessions are well structured to allow daily use of the outdoor environment, and opportunities for active and quiet play. A well organised registration system ensures that children who are expected, attend and parents sign children out on collection.

Well organised and comprehensive documentation is in place. Required policies and procedures are available and regularly updated. Staff ensure parents are kept well informed about the club, activities, or any issues surrounding the care of their child. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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.
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## 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):

- make sure that records are kept of existing injuries.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)