



Mountbatten Holiday Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	151098
Inspection date	20 February 2007
Inspector	Lorraine Sparey
Setting Address	Mountbatten School, Whitenap Lane, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5SY
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Registered person	The Mountbatten School
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?

Mountbatten Holiday club opened in 1996 and operates from various rooms and halls at the Mountbatten School, Romsey. The holiday club offers an inclusive scheme and reserves some places for children with learning difficulties and or disabilities. It is situated in a residential area of Hampshire.

A maximum of 50 children may attend the setting at any one time. There are currently 103 on roll. This includes children aged over eight years. The holiday club is open from 08:30 to 18:00 during school holidays, and children attend for a variety of sessions. All children share access to the school playing fields.

The club employs 34 staff, four of whom hold appropriate qualifications, and several staff have completed a short course. The setting receives support from Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from healthy nutritious snacks such as pitta bread, Greek yoghurt, cucumber, carrot sticks and fresh fruit. Staff provide water throughout the day which children confidently help themselves to, particularly after physical activities. This means children's fluid levels are maintained. Lunchtime is a very social occasion where staff and children sit together to eat their lunch and discuss the morning's activities.

Children are encouraged to follow good hand hygiene practices such as washing their hands prior to eating and after toileting. Staff gently remind children to wash their hands if they forget, giving good explanations about germs. Children use the school resources to wash their hands, liquid soap and the hot air dryers, which minimise cross infection. Staff maintain a clean and hygienic environment and provide children with their own cups and bowls to promote their general health and well-being.

Children have very good opportunities to develop their physical skills both indoors and outdoors. They confidently use a range of sports equipment, such as badminton and tennis rackets, hockey sticks and basketballs. The children can choose whether to play in the gym or use the outdoor courts. Staff organise team games to increase children's fitness such as bench ball and rounders.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children safely choose from a suitable range of age appropriate toys and equipment. Resources are checked on a regular basis to ensure that they are suitable for use. For example, staff check the resources daily as they are put away. However, toys that become damaged or broken during play are not promptly removed by staff, therefore children's safety is compromised. Children are cared for in a safe and generally secure environment, making use of specific areas within the school and community premises. Staff use walkie-talkies which enables them to monitor children's movements between these areas, in most instances this is successful. Children practise the fire drill on a regular basis to ensure that they are familiar with evacuating the building quickly and safely.

Staff demonstrate a good understanding of child protection issues. All staff and volunteers are clear on procedures to follow in the event of a concern being raised. They attend a workshop prior to the scheme running that covers information they require to protect children from harm and neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally happy and settled within the scheme. They are confident to approach staff to request that they join in their play. A child making a hat asks a member of staff 'How

do I make it stay together', the adults suggests using Sellotape and helps the child. The child spends a considerable time making the hat and a wand. Children choose from a range of age appropriate resources such as board games, puzzles and creative activities. Some resources are not presented in an inviting way and do not encourage children's respect for the equipment. For example, dressing up clothes are in a pile on the floor and some children tread on them whilst drawing on the blackboard. Children benefit from being offered a range of workshops and outings throughout the holiday period. Several children show obvious enjoyment that they are going to the play zone the following day. They ask an adult 'Do you remember when we went there last time, I went down the big slide, it was fun.'

Children enjoy using the school's computers. This is a very popular workshop, they can play games, use the Internet and one child enjoys designing a poster promoting healthy eating. They have opportunities to use the gym playing team games and using the parachute. Children enthusiastically join in the parachute play, two children sit in the middle, whilst the others walk around in a circle. It results in the children in the middle spinning around. Children shriek demonstrating obvious enjoyment. Children have opportunities to be creative using clay and a range of creative materials to develop their own ideas. A child enjoys making their own house and cat with the clay. They confidently tell the adult 'I need to make a door to get into the house', the adult suggests they can also add a chimney. Staff invite visitors to talk on a variety of subjects such as recycling. Children have opportunities to record their ideas and views on the graffiti wall. Staff try to accommodate their wishes. For example, children request some large boxes to make dens.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's behaviour varies and is generally appropriate given their age and stage of development. Staff generally manage children's behaviour appropriately. They have suitable strategies to deal with unacceptable behaviour and use positive reinforcement to develop children's understanding of right from wrong. Children know and understand the expectations such as being considerate to their peers. However, older children can become boisterous and play fight at times. This has an adverse impact on younger children's ability to fully enjoy all activities. Children benefit from the staff's consistent use of praise and encouragement. They particularly enjoy receiving the award certificates, staff nominate children to receive an award to recognise their achievements. This promotes children's sense of belonging and self esteem.

Children with specific or additional needs are well supported within the setting. Staff implement effective procedures to ensure that children's individual needs are well catered for, such as one to one support. Children benefit from the good liaison between staff and parents. Children have opportunities to learn about the wider world through topics and themes. For example, children enjoy multicultural snacks throughout the week. Staff increase children's awareness by discussing the countries that the food is associated with.

Staff develop positive relationships with the parents and carers. There are good procedures in place to ensure that their views are sought through various means, such as informal discussions and questionnaires. Any suggestions or issues are followed up by the management. Parents receive newsletters to ensure that they are kept up to date with the service offered and they

are invited to meet with the management on a regular basis. Parents report that their children really enjoy coming to the scheme and that they are happy with the service offered.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The manager is enthusiastic and provides a positive role model to the staff. They have recently received an award for their teamwork. Children are cared for by suitable adults because the recruitment and vetting procedures are thorough. Staff and volunteers receive training prior to the scheme starting, which means that they are aware of their roles and responsibilities.

The setting has a range of policies and procedures to reflect their practice. However, the systems to ensure that the toys are well maintained are not always effective. At times, staff do not manage older children's behaviour consistently and this impacts on the younger children. Staff organise activities to provide children with a variety of workshops, such as dance, bench ball and information and technology. However, on occasions the majority of children want to sign up for the same workshops. This results in older and younger children being inappropriately grouped together. The management regularly review their service and have recognised this issue and are starting a separate club for older children at Easter. The setting has all the required documentation which is stored securely.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was given eight actions to improve the quality of care. The setting was asked to devise an action plan with regard to staff training and qualifications to meet the National Standards. The setting has four staff who are qualified in early years and 11 staff who have completed a basic course in early years. This means children are cared for by suitable staff. The setting also was asked to produce a policy for lost and uncollected children and share this with parents, and to make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint. Also to keep a record of any complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken. They have implemented policies and procedures to ensure that parents are aware of their policy with regard to lost or uncollected children, complaints and the setting has devised a complaints log to record any complaints that they receive and include any action that they have taken. This means children's safety is promoted and parents have a clear understanding of how to raise the concern which would be recorded appropriately in the complaints log.

The setting was also asked to plan and provide activities and play opportunities which allow children to use their imagination and in which they have as much choice as possible. Staff plan and provide a range of activities and play opportunities throughout the day. Children are given the choice of various workshops when they initially arrive and again at lunchtime. This is in addition to free play where children are encouraged to develop their own ideas.

The setting was also asked to provide an action plan which detailed how the setting will develop a range of suitable and well maintained toys and equipment which is suitable for the ages and stages of the children's development. They have increased the range of toys and equipment

available and there are procedures in place to ensure that the toys are well maintained. However, on occasions toys become broken whilst in use and are not always removed immediately, to fully support children's safety.

The setting was also asked to review the fire evacuation procedures to ensure that all children are promptly accounted for and to assess the risks to children with regard to free play sessions and take steps to minimise any risks. Staff practise the emergency evacuation procedures on a regular basis to ensure that children and staff are familiar with evacuating safely and quickly. The manager has completed a detailed risk assessment to ensure that children's safety is promoted during free play. The management have acknowledged that the needs of the older children are very different from the needs of the younger children and have decided to split the age groups and provide separately for the older children. This means that all children's safety and enjoyment is promoted.

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 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 the procedures to maintain the toys and equipment are effective
- ensure that staff are consistent in their approach to managing children's behaviour to ensure that the older children's behaviour do not adversely affect the younger children's care
- review the organisation of the activities and grouping of the children to ensure that the needs of the younger children are met

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