

SPACE

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY254976
Inspection date	03 April 2007
Inspector	Linda Janet Chauveau
Setting Address	Redruth Youth Centre, Tolgus Vean, Redruth, Cornwall, TR15 1TA
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	NCH
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

SPACE (Kerrier Holiday Activity Scheme) is a holiday activity scheme run by NCH Cornwall. The scheme serves children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities who live in the local area. It opened in 2002 and operates from the Redruth Youth Centre, Redruth, in Cornwall. A maximum of ten children aged under eight years may attend the scheme at any one time. Young people aged from eight to under 19 years may also attend.

The scheme opens for up to four days a week during pre-arranged school holiday times. Sessions are from 10:00 until 16:00 during the Easter and Summer school holidays and 10:00 to 15:30 during the Christmas break. There are currently six children, from five to eight years on roll. The scheme also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language. The activity scheme employs 11 staff. Over half the staff hold appropriate early years or play work qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted and supported very effectively by staff who seek extensive information on the children they look after. Staff maintain and act upon detailed information on children's complex health and medical needs and, as a result, children are well cared for. The information and required consents given by parents at registration enable staff to respond appropriately in an emergency. Children's health is safeguarded as staff follow comprehensive record keeping systems for accidents and the administration of medication. Children are aware of routines to follow to develop good personal hygiene, for example, by asking permission to visit the toilet and washing their hands after use.

Children have plenty of fresh air on a regular basis, and keep fit by walking to the local park to use the play equipment and kick footballs. On site, all children can access the indoor play area and use a variety of sit and ride toys and soft balls to develop strength and co-ordination. In order to keep hydrated, children are provided with additive free drinks. At snack time, children eat fresh fruit or a sweet biscuit to keep their calorie intake high. All children provide their own packed lunch in order that their diverse individual dietary requirements can be met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure in the bright and spacious environment, where good monitoring procedures ensure that children are protected from unknown visitors. Staff have made good use of space normally used by older children. They have organised the rooms available to enable children to move freely and safely between areas, with good space for floor and tabletop activities. Children are able to access a good range of resources set out by staff. The range of toys and games provided are designed to relate to the individual interests of children attending the activity scheme, they are developmentally appropriate and well maintained.

Staff carry out daily visual checks, to minimise potential health and safety hazards. However, children's safety is compromised, as there is no written risk assessment of the premises in place. As a result, risks are not identified nor is there evidence to show how risks will be minimised or regularly reviewed. When taking children off site, staff are diligent in monitoring their safety, they ensure sufficient supervision is provided and outings are assessed for potential risks before they take place.

A comprehensive child protection policy, which is designed to keep children safe from harm, is in place. It follows procedures laid down by the registered body NCH, but has not been updated to reflect national guidance or the replacement of the local area child protection committee. Staff have a sound understanding of signs and symptoms of child abuse, they update their training on an annual basis and know what to do if they have concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive happy and eager to participate, they are warmly welcomed by staff that show great interest in them. They have good relationships with staff and are keen to speak to them.

Several have already formed friendships through attendance at previous schemes or attending local schools together, this helps them to settle and enjoy their time at the scheme. The manager, and several of her support staff, work during term times with children with learning difficulties, many of these children attend the activity scheme during the holidays. As a result, the manager has a very sound understanding of children's needs and abilities. Using this knowledge, she notes which children are booked onto the activity scheme, and plans a themed week that will engage and interest them.

All staff and children enjoy circle time, when the register is taken, familiar faces are welcomed and the manager explains to children what the days planned activities will be. A daily timetable is in place and loosely followed by staff, all children are encouraged to participate but those who prefer not to are not made to join in, as this is likely to cause distress, especially if they are uncomfortable in large groups or noisy situations. Children enjoy a craft activity of painting and sticking collage materials onto cardboard boxes, which will be made into dancing lions. All activities are presented for short time slots to support those children who have very limited attention spans. A mid morning snack is prepared for children and more able children are given the chance to help by setting out cups and serving fruit. All co-operation is warmly praised and this results in children developing self esteem and confidence as well as social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the company of staff and each other. Staff make very good use of their individual knowledge of children gained from working with them in school to help them integrate into the scheme. Staff use information provided by parents on registration forms, and from other professionals, to find out each child's individual needs and requirements. They use this information well to ensure that children receive strong individual care and support. Staff have very good experience of dealing with children with additional needs; all children attending the activity scheme have learning difficulties and or disabilities. They have a suitable special educational needs statement in place and very effective strategies are in place for liaison with parents and other professionals to help support children who attend the scheme.

Children are made aware of people like themselves and those different from themselves, for example, there are many prints on the wall of children from other cultures and with disabilities. Staff plan activities to help children learn about their own community and the wider world. Staff manage children's behaviour very effectively. They carefully monitor children, using their individual knowledge of each child's particular needs, signs and triggers so that they are able to pre-empt any crises. They use effective strategies to deal with difficult behaviour, acknowledging a child is angry, giving them time to calm down and then discussing what has caused the loss of temper. Staff use lots of verbal praise to highlight and reinforce positive behaviour. Staff have excellent and supportive relationships with children, they listen to and value children's contributions, have high expectations of behaviour whilst acknowledging individual children's limitations.

Relationships with parents are very strong and supportive. Staff know families very well. Staff provide verbal support and feedback and ensure that all required documentation such as accident and medication records are countersigned promptly by parents. Parents receive adequate information about the operational procedures of the club and complete comprehensive registration forms, which cover all legally required documentation. However, some information available to them, including contact details should they wish to make a complaint, is out of date and has not been reviewed by the registered body.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff are employed and managed by NCH, the national children's charity, and operate under their policies and procedures. Effective procedures are in place to assess staff's on-going suitability and that of any new recruits. The operation and organisation of the scheme for under eights is underpinned by a set of policy statements and procedures, written to demonstrate how National Standards will be met. However, the policies relating to child protection and complaints, have not been updated to reflect changes to regulations and contact information.

Children benefit from staff's ability to provide an effectively organised environment. The wide range of activities available means that children are suitably stimulated and engaged. Children benefit from being cared for by staff that are very experienced and appropriately qualified. All staff members have a very good understanding of children's needs. They work well as a team and are clear about their individual responsibilities in order to support children. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the scheme was asked to improve children's safety by assessing risks to the premises and providing an emergency evacuation procedure. An evacuation procedure is now in place and fire drills are now practised and recorded by the manager. Daily visual checks are made of the premises but no written risk assessment is in place. The scheme was also asked to provide resources to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. There is now a good range of posters on display showing children and young adults of differing cultures and abilities.

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):

- provide a written risk assessment for the premises to show how potential risks are identified and managed

- ensure that all the operational procedures relating to Ofsted requirements are updated on a regular basis, to reflect most recent contact information, legislation and guidance.

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