



## Allsorts Fun Club

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY340656
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Marie Lefevre
<b>Setting Address</b>	Hipsburn County First School, Alnmouth, ALNWICK, Northumberland, NE66 3PX
<b>Telephone number</b>	01665 830210
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Allsorts Fun Club
<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Allsorts Fun Club was registered in September 2006. The setting is approved to care for a maximum of 26 children who are aged from three to under eight years; children up to the age of 13 years may also attend. There are currently 42 children on the roll. The provision is open in term time from 08.00 until 09.00 and 15.15 until 17.45, Monday to Friday and on Saturdays as required.

The children are accommodated within the Hipsburn First School which is located in a small rural village. Children attend from this and other schools. Childcare is provided in a designated classroom which has kitchen facilities to one side. The school hall and a computer classroom are also used. There are separate toilets for children and staff. The school grounds and playing field are available for fully supervised outdoor activities.

The provision is jointly run by two directors who also take the roles of joint care managers. An additional member of staff is available to provide back-up cover on two days of the week. All

staff are appropriately qualified and experienced. Volunteers and students are welcome. There are strong links with the school.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have some opportunities to develop their awareness of health and hygiene in their daily routines and activities. They are encouraged to wash their hands before cookery projects, but not specifically before having snacks. There are soap and paper towel dispensers in the washrooms, which helps to minimise the spread of infection.

Children gain an understanding of keeping their bodies healthy as they wear coats to keep warm during outdoor activities in cold weather, and there are strategies in place to ensure children are protected in hot weather. Children's health needs are appropriately noted in recording systems. There is a suitably stocked first aid kit and staff have completed first aid training. Staff are keen to ensure that children's health is protected.

Children enjoy a snack of crackers, breadsticks or toast on different days. They may help themselves to drinks of sugar free juice or water which is readily available in the playroom. The school has a healthy eating policy and fresh fruit is available for the club during some sessions. Staff ensure that any special dietary needs are adhered to; they work with parents and obtain the necessary information about specific requirements.

Children develop their physical and emotional well-being in a range of activities. They participate in activities which exercise their bodies as well as their thinking skills. Children participate in team games, such as football, treasure hunts and cricket, or run around and have fun as they play outdoors in the fresh air. They also develop emotionally as they build relationships by socialising with other children and adults.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are welcoming and resources are in place for children prior to their arrival in the setting. Children access the designated childcare areas freely with support from the staff. Steps are taken by staff to ensure that play resources, equipment and furniture are maintained in a safe and clean condition; all items are checked frequently. Children learn about keeping safe, for example, being careful when using equipment. In addition, there are plans to introduce cycling proficiency projects which will include road safety awareness.

Staff ensure the premises are safe and secure so that children are protected. As with many schools, the exit door security systems prevent people from walking into the premises, however, children could potentially leave the premises unsupervised via the playroom exit door. Therefore, staff remain vigilant as they supervise the children. The school and the out of school club each have effective systems to monitor any visitor's presence in the building. A range of safety measures has been taken, for example, cleaning materials are securely stored and sockets are

covered. Fire exit signs and appropriate firefighting equipment are in place. Fire drills are undertaken each term and these are recorded.

Children are protected as there is appropriate documentation in relation to child safety in the setting. There is a well maintained child attendance register which is completed as children arrive and again when they depart. Children are also protected as staff have an awareness of child protection procedures and there is a child protection policy in place. One of the care managers has completed child protection training.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children build positive relationships with staff and with their peers. They respond well as they are warmly welcomed by staff and are confident as they settle down in the playroom. A programme is in place, however, this allows for flexibility and several children opt for playing computer and console games for the full session. The provision has been registered for a short period of time and the planning for activities is being developed. There is some scope for staff to manage the amount of time children spend using electronic games.

Children are able to participate in a range of activities and projects which introduce some new learning experiences as well as developing their existing skills. They can just relax with their friends or explore and use their imaginations, for example, as they use computers to play games, stack paper cups to create high structures, participate in cookery projects or do junk modelling. Children have joined in a gardening club and planted seed pellets in planters; they also have access to the school allotment.

Staff ensure that the setting is organised, with resources which allow the children to have positive experiences and have fun. There is a range of playthings and equipment. Staff prepare for the sessions and ensure that all necessary materials and equipment are in place for both the planned activities and additional free-play. Staff demonstrate that they value children. This is evident during their discussions with the children and in the overall care provided.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the staff's positive attitude towards equal opportunities and respecting individual needs. There are opportunities for children to develop their awareness of local and wider communities. They experience familiar celebrations such as Christmas, when they discuss the Nativity and participate in craft activities, for example, decorating a pillowcase for Santa. Children also learn about other countries and festivals, for example, they enjoy food and activities which reflect other countries and cultures, such as doing limbo dancing and having fruit kebabs during a Caribbean night. Some of the resources in the playroom reflect differing backgrounds. Stereotyping is discouraged and children have the opportunity to participate in age appropriate activities irrespective of gender.

All children build confidence in relating to their peers and adults. They express their ideas and thoughts, communicating well during activities and routines. They learn about sharing and

valuing others from the role models provided by the staff, who support praise, and encourage the children. This helps them to develop their self-esteem, confidence and sense of belonging. Children are happy and relaxed in the setting. They are enabled to make choices in their play and daily routines, and are confident as they select playthings and join in activities.

The partnership with parents and carers is positive. Parents are able to participate in the exchange of information necessary for their children's care. They are informed about daily issues and events. Although Ofsted contact details are prominently displayed, the setting's policies and procedures, including complaints, are not readily accessible for parents. Parents speak highly of the care their children receive and make positive comments, both verbally and in feedback sheets provided by the out of school staff and also by the school. There is a good rapport between staff and parents which is demonstrated when children are collected at the end of sessions. In addition, children take art and craft work home to show what they have achieved.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Clearly defined daily routines enable children to settle well and feel secure. The staff team demonstrate a caring approach to the provision of care for the children. This is reflected in the setting in the range of resources and equipment provided and in the good relationships between the children and staff.

Informative files and notice boards are in place. Public liability insurance has been obtained, however, this was not available in the setting for the inspection. All necessary recording systems are in place, however, the organisation of these lacks clarity and effective structure. Accidents are appropriately recorded, but not all entries are signed by parents. The medication record sheet format and some other documents do not safeguard confidentiality.

The staff team are positive about ongoing training to enhance their knowledge and skills. All staff are qualified and have completed the NVQ in Childcare and Education Level 3. They have participated in a range of courses relating to the health, safety and care of children.

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

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

Not applicable.

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

Since registration 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 the 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):

- further develop the information for parents by making the policies and procedures more readily available, including the complaints procedure
- improve the recording systems by ensuring that all accident entries are sign by a relevant parent/carer, privacy and confidentiality are maintained in relation to medication and other records, and evidence of public liability insurance is available for inspection at all times.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)