



Lytham CE Primary School After School Care Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY330302
Inspection date	22 January 2007
Inspector	Lynne Naylor
Setting Address	Lytham C of E Primary School, Park View Road, Lytham, Lancashire, FY8 4HA
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Registered person	Lytham CE Primary School After School Care Club
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Lytham CE Primary School After School Care Club opened in 2006 and operates from the main hall in Lytham Church of England Primary School in Lytham. Children have access to an outdoor play area.

A maximum of 16 children may attend at any one time. The group is open each weekday from 15.30 to 17.30, during term time. The out of school club primarily serves the children attending the school. There are currently 39 children on roll, of whom 18 are aged from four years to under eight years. The club supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The service employs five staff to work with the children, of these, three hold an appropriate child care qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children know that washing hands helps to prevent the spread of germs. They are escorted, before snack, to the bathroom and follow routine hand washing procedures without prompting. Insufficient attention is given to checking resources are available prior to children arriving, resulting in a lack of paper towels for children to dry their hands.

Children play in a clean environment. Staff protect children's health by taking some appropriate steps to minimise the spread of infection. In the event of an injury, an identified person with up to date first aid training carries out appropriate treatment. A newly implemented system is in place to record any accidents, using individual sheets for each child to ensure that information is kept confidential. However, the accident records are not always checked for accuracy, nor are they signed by parents to acknowledge they have been informed. In the main, the consents, policies and procedures relating to health are effective in ensuring continuity of care between staff and parents, through good communication and appropriate action.

Little attention is given to the organisation of snack time. On arrival, after school, children queue up to take a biscuit, of which there is only one variety and choose water, blackcurrant or orange cordial to drink with their snack. Children find a space to sit and squash onto benches at tables set up with toys. Throughout the session, drinks are kept at the side of the hall and children help themselves to a drink if they are thirsty, which enables them to identify their own needs.

Although there are school posters displayed in the hall relating to healthy eating and the recommended fruit and vegetable portions, this information is not reflected in the provision of snacks. Children who attend after school are not offered nutritious foods, which hinder their ability to make healthy choices.

Children are not encouraged to develop an understanding of the importance of keeping active as part of a healthy life style. This is because plans do not specifically identify physical activities. Children's fine motor skills develop well as they manipulate small pieces of construction sets well. It is mainly in the summer that children's health benefits from daily fresh air and exercise in the school's outdoor area.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment, which is clean and well maintained. They move freely around the hall where resources are well spaced out. Children independently select toys from a basic range of clean, safe equipment, set out by staff prior to each session. Toys and equipment, which are regularly checked for safety, basically meet the needs of the full range of children who attend.

Staff sign, each evening, at the bottom of the register to say they have checked for hazards. It is not clear what they are checking, as even if a full risk assessment has been conducted by the provider, staff are not aware of its contents. Children's safety is put at risk because staff do not ensure that the premises are free of hazards. Staff are not aware of potential hazards and do not, therefore, take positive steps to ensure children are kept free from harm. During the inspection it was noted that chairs, up to eight high and platforms are stacked at the side of the hall. The hall is also used as a thoroughfare for other building users and parents collecting children from other parts of the school. Staff have not made their own risk assessment of these arrangements. The congregation of children for collection by an external out of school club provider presents risks, which have not been identified and are therefore not monitored.

Children know how to evacuate the building safely as evacuation procedures are practised regularly and recorded. Safe collection procedures ensure children leave with a known adult. Parents ring the bell at the main school door and are let in by staff. Parents and carers sign and record the time when collecting children.

Children's welfare is not adequately safeguarded. This is because staff demonstrate a limited knowledge and awareness of child protection issues and of how to make a referral if they have concerns regarding a child's well-being. A child protection policy is in place and the most recent government guidance on child protection procedures is readily available. However, staff are not aware of the procedures to follow other than contacting the registered person. They do not know what to do if she is not available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children occupy themselves with a satisfactory range of toys. They are familiar with their school environment and know the routines, for example, on arrival, they help to set up the toys and get ready for snack.

Although they have access to a limited range of resources, they are happy to play with what is available. For example, some children spend the evening sewing and some make flowers out of tissue paper and straws, whilst others draw pictures with coloured pens. One child requests a mat so she can practise cartwheels and is quickly joined by others. A lack of suitable activity planning restricts children's abilities to develop their ideas fully. Children do not have access to activities tailored to suit their needs or interests. This results in children, particularly boys, monopolising the computer game and the snooker table. They are given some choices, for example, whether they would like the football table but are not actively involved in the planning or evaluating of activities.

There is no comfortable area set aside for rest or relaxation. Play areas are not comfortable, which hinders children's ability to rest, relax and sit to talk with their friends. Children take part in few activities that help them to feel part of their local or wider community. They have little access to resources that reflect positive images of other cultures, lifestyles or abilities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

There are insufficient resources to help children become aware of a wider diverse society or to learn to be proud of their own family background and culture. However, children are valued as individuals and treated with equal concern. Children's individual care needs are effectively met. This is because staff obtain the relevant information from parents in order to be in a position to give appropriate care. However, some of the written agreements with parents and children's personal records could not be found at the time of inspection.

Children are generally well-behaved, polite, take turns and show concern for others. They help to tidy away equipment and use good manners at snack time. Children play harmoniously together. They respond positively to clear explanations from staff, if behaviour is inappropriate and resolve minor disputes quickly. Children also respond well to meaningful praise; this helps to raise their self-esteem and confidence.

The views of parents are not yet actively sought. However, parents are provided with some basic written information that includes the names of staff and the setting's policy statements and procedures. Parents are sometimes misinformed, for example, biscuits and cordial are provided at snack time, not 'a healthy snack' as stated in the club's information pack. Parents receive occasional newsletters and are warmly welcomed and chat to staff when they collect their child. In the event that a child becomes lost, or is uncollected by parents, staff are vague about the procedures to follow in the absence of management. Furthermore, the procedures are not available in writing, as required, to ensure that all staff are informed.

There is a complaints procedure, which includes the name and contact number of the regulator, but it does not reflect recent changes to regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children benefit from being cared for by staff who work well individually and who relate to children in a friendly, kind, caring manner. Also, the newly appointed manager demonstrates a good awareness of the National Standards and is keen to develop the service. However, at the time of inspection, children's safety and well-being is compromised because the setting is not yet organised effectively to meet children's needs.

Children occupy themselves from an acceptable but basic range of activities, which are not always suited to their individual interests. Children are unable to rest according to their needs as there are no quiet, comfortable areas set aside for relaxation. Staff are not sufficiently familiar with the group's policies and procedures, can not easily access or refer to some of these, and have not considered the potential impact of this on children's safety and well-being. Although, it is mandatory in the regulations that the name, home address and date of birth of each child who is looked after on the premises must be recorded, some children's personal details could not be found by staff. Staff's attendance is not recorded on a daily basis, showing hours of attendance, which is also mandatory in the regulations. Therefore, overall, the provision does not meet 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 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- register staff attendance on a daily basis, showing hours of attendance and keep a record of the name, home address and date of birth of each child who is looked after on the premises
- make provision for children who wish to rest, equipped with appropriate furniture
- conduct a risk assessment of the premises, assess the risks to children in relation to the storage of furniture, and implement an effective system for managing access to the hall by other adults
- ensure there is a clearly defined procedure to be followed in the event of a child being lost or not collected
- ensure that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and ensure staff are able to implement the policies and procedures in the absence of the designated member of staff
- improve staff's knowledge of the amendments to the National Standards and develop systems for the recording of complaints, in line with regulations
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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