



## Castle Carrock Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	317426
<b>Inspection date</b>	30 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Andrea, Marie Paulson
<b>Setting Address</b>	Castle Carrock, Brampton, Cumbria, CA8 9LU
<b>Telephone number</b>	01228 670393
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Castle Carrock Kids 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?

Castle Carrock Kids Club opened in 1995. It is run by a management committee and operates a Breakfast Club, After School Club and Holiday Club, from premises within Castle Carrock Primary School in the centre of Castle Carrock village. The Kids Club uses the school hall and toilet facilities within the building, and the school playground and playing field for outdoor activities. The Kids Club takes children from Castle Carrock Primary School which serves the surrounding rural area. There are currently 45 children from four to 11 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The club opens five days a week during term time. The breakfast club opens each weekday from 08.00 to 08.50, the after school club opens from 15.30 to 18.00 during term time only. The holiday club operates from 08.00 to 18.00.

Four regular members of staff are employed, two of whom have early years qualifications and experience. Four relief staff are available to assist, two of whom have early years qualifications.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff follow sound health and hygiene procedures, such as making sure that tables and worktops are cleaned before preparing snacks, so that children's understanding of healthy practices is promoted. Children wash their hands before eating and follow the good role models set by the staff. Children's well-being is further supported with staff having current first aid training so that children are well cared for in case of accidents or if they become ill. Children's individual health details are recorded so that they receive appropriate care. Staff work with parents to maintain individual information so that children's health is continuously promoted.

Children choose from a selection of snacks during breakfast, after school and holiday club sessions which reflect a balanced diet so that children learn about healthy eating. They learn independence as they make jam or honey sandwiches, choose fruit such as mandarins, and enjoy cereals. Children learn to pour their own drinks of fruit juice, which is easily accessible. Although children can ask for water, it is not as easily available. Children's individual choices and appetites are, therefore, generally catered for. They also benefit from snack time being made into a sociable, enjoyable occasion where children sit together and much conversation takes place. Older children help younger children to spread the butter or pour the fruit juice, with staff on hand to generally supervise.

Children have regular opportunities for physical play both indoors and outdoors, to promote movement skills and coordination. They enjoy a game of rounders at breakfast club, play football outdoors in the enclosed play area after school, have fun dancing to music and playing skittles at the after school club. Plans and photographs show children enjoying a wide variety of interesting activities in the holiday club, such as mini-orienteering and local walks. Children have access to the large adventure playground where they can balance and climb on the apparatus. Quieter activities are provided for children so that they can complete homework or read books. Children rest when they need to as they make themselves comfortable on the large scatter cushions in the hall.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Risk assessments are consistently used to maintain satisfactory safety standards daily so that children are kept safe and secure indoors and outdoors. Children use sufficient, suitable and safe equipment confidently. The premises are kept secure with alarm bells on the doors, visitors are easily seen and children do not leave the club unsupervised. Health and safety procedures are implemented, such as the careful collection routine to supervise children from the school to the club. Records are up to date, such as the recording of accidents and written parental consent is obtained for local outings and specific days out for the holiday club.

Children learn how and why to keep themselves safe as they understand not to leave the yard on their own and that gates should be secure. They use tools with care so as not to hurt themselves or others, as they work with craft equipment and prepare their snacks. Children sit

safely at the table and help to tidy away equipment so as not to trip over. They participate in play activities in separate areas, for instance, as they dance to music and play indoor skittles in sufficient space to avoid collisions. The emergency evacuation is practised regularly, and the procedure is displayed so that children are familiar with the routine and how to keep themselves safe.

Staff have a sound understanding of the child protection policies and procedures which are up to date so that children are better safeguarded through staff being guided by current information.

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

The provision is good.

Children have fun at the club as they participate well and enjoy the varied, interesting activities which are thoroughly planned and easily available to them. Activities are often based on topics, especially for the holiday club, and provide imaginative and creative opportunities for art and craft work. Children are actively involved in stimulating activities as part of topics, such as 'fantastic tales' and 'treasure island'.

Children are happy, relaxed, enthusiastic and confident as they choose from interesting resources which are age-appropriate and encourage their development and learning. They enjoy playing in small groups as they practise coordination skills with the indoor skittles set out in the hall, and develop their self-expression as they make up dance sequences to music. They learn about caring for living things as they paint nesting boxes for birds as part of the 'bird watch' topic, and have their work published in a book as part of a national 'perfect pets' project. Children gain a sense of achievement as they make biscuits in animal shapes and see the finished product when they are baked. Their individual skills are promoted well as they join clubs, such as for knitting and have the opportunity to practise, given help from staff when needed.

Children and staff develop relaxed and friendly interaction where staff care very much about the well-being of the children, who know that they are valued through the interest that staff show in them as individuals. Staff join in activities with the children, such as baking, so building up good relationships and promoting effective communication. Children gain self-esteem through constant praise and encouragement from staff.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children become aware of the wider world through interesting resources and activities that reflect their own cultures and those of others. They learn how to say 'Happy New Year' in different languages at the holiday club and celebrate festivals, such as Chinese New Year and pancake day. Staff work closely with parents to meet individual needs so that each child can take an active part in the provision. Each child has equal access to the activities at the club and feel a sense of belonging as their work is valued and they participate in group projects, such as 'bird watch'.

Children are well behaved and respond well to appropriate behaviour management techniques used by staff, such as showing interest in each child, praising achievements and providing individual support. Children learn right from wrong and understand responsible behaviour as they consider others and use good manners. They develop self-esteem and confidence as they express their ideas, and make choices and decisions. Children work together to repeatedly set out the skittles and take turns to knock them down. They learn to compromise and negotiate as they devise a dance sequence. Older children help younger children to make snacks and mix ingredients while making biscuits together.

Staff work closely with parents to develop a sound relationship to ensure that each child is appropriately cared for. Parents are welcome at the club and talk informally with staff as part of a satisfactory handover routine. Some information is displayed on a noticeboard, including the policy pack and complaints procedure, but there is limited space to display further information and work done at the club. Written parental consents are in place, children's details are shared with parents and kept confidential.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff have a sound understanding of child development and work well as a team to ensure the sessions run smoothly. The manager is qualified and experienced in providing out of school care and is committed to promoting children's enjoyment at the club. The staff group as a whole meets the required qualified staffing ratio and are well deployed to ensure the satisfactory supervision of children throughout the sessions. They care very much about the well-being of the children and providing them with varied and interesting activities. The recruitment and checking procedures are satisfactory so that children are well protected.

Group sizes for the activities are appropriate so that each child can participate and enjoy sufficient resources. Children are cared for in a well-equipped environment. The premises are well organised with play areas for the activities set out in the hall to promote play opportunities for all children. Activities are thoroughly planned and well-resourced throughout the term for all children to continuously enjoy.

Records, policies and procedures, which enable the smooth running of the breakfast, after school and holiday clubs, are in place.

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

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

At the last inspection, the provider had not informed Ofsted of a change in manager, therefore not meeting regulatory requirements. Areas for improvement noted, referred to the organisation of snack time, parental consents for outings, displaying the emergency evacuation procedure and the complaints procedure, and updating the child protection policy.

The provider has since established systems to ensure that Ofsted is informed of any significant changes. The required standard is now met which further protects children.

Snack time is organised now so that children can help themselves and prepare their own snacks. Their independence is further promoted and individual appetites better catered for. The complaints procedure and Ofsted contact details are displayed for parents so that they are better informed and children further safeguarded. The emergency evacuation procedure is displayed so that all children and adults attending the club are more familiar with the procedure and better able to keep safe in an emergency. The child protection policy and procedures are updated so children are further safeguarded with staff following current guidance.

### **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 drinking water is more easily accessible
- consider ways to display more information about the club and the work done by children.

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)