



Dolphinholme After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	309786
Inspection date	23 February 2007
Inspector	Janet, Elizabeth Singleton
Setting Address	Dolphinholme C of E School, Dolphinholme, Lancaster, Lancashire, LA2 9AN
Telephone number	01524 791 530
E-mail	
Registered person	Dolphinholme After School 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Dolphinholme After School Club opened in September 1997. It operates from Dolphinholme Church of England Primary School and has use of the school hall, computer room and adjacent classroom. There is a secure outdoor area suitable for play. A maximum of 20 children may attend at any one time. The out of school club is open each week day during school term times only. Sessions are from 08.00 until 08.45 for the breakfast club and from 15.15 until 18.00 for the after school club. There are currently 60 children aged from three to seven years on roll.

There are five staff available to work with the children, four of whom are qualified in early years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is generally promoted as the staff follow satisfactory hygiene practices, for example, cleaning the tables before snack time. Children follow sound practice as they wash their hands before meals and after attending to their personal needs, in the bathroom.

The required documentation is in place to maintain the medication needs of the children, for example, accident and consent details for the application of medication.

Children are satisfactorily nourished, as they are provided with a variety of snacks which always includes fresh fruit. The children were seen to enjoy a snack of banana, carrot and some home made scones, baked during the morning session. They monitor their own needs for a drink as they access fresh drinking water and during snack time they make choices from water or juice to drink.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and safe environment. They have access to the hall, creative area and computer room. They move freely and make choices from the resources including; computers, building blocks, crayons and role play. Their welfare is safeguarded because they use suitable and safe equipment.

There is sufficient space for the number of children who attend and regular risk assessments are carried out to ensure that the premises remain suitable for the purpose. Staff remind children to be careful and not to run and as a result they begin to take some responsibility for their own safety.

Children's welfare is further protected because staff understand their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary, based on national and local guidance

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy and achieve because staff follow the children's lead and plan a range of interesting activities which keeps them occupied and allows time for them to express themselves after school. They remain motivated and interested as they sit and concentrate at the computer, crayoning and playing giant Jenga. They readily sit with staff and communicate to each other about what they are doing as they talk about making chickens and discuss the hens and the eggs. Staff follow the children's lead and have available to them the creative area which enables children to glue or paint.

Children are developing their confidence and esteem by having positive relationships with the staff, staff use praise and talk to the children about the activities they are taking part in. They sit and talk together about the swimming lesson at school. They take part in gardening activities and have their own 'growing patch' in which they grow vegetables, flowers and pumpkins. The children have previously made soup from the vegetables they have grown.

Children speak very highly of the club and discuss how they like coming to the club, they like the computers, they enjoy playing basketball and they also discuss how they like going outside and playing team games when the weather permits.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed into the setting and are valued and respected because the staff ensure all children are included. Staff set boundaries and guidelines which enable them to take responsibility for their own behaviour taking into account their age and stage of development. They are well mannered and well behaved, as their behaviour is acknowledged in a positive manner. Staff talk calmly and reinforce rules as they give gentle reminders, for example, don't run you may fall.

Partnership with parents is effective and contributes to the well-being of the children. They share information and welcome parents into the setting. Parent's views are sought as they complete the parent's questionnaires to identify areas of good practice.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children move freely through a generally well organised setting which provides appropriate play opportunities and make sound use of space, time and resources. Policies and procedures are used to promote the welfare, care and education of the children, although not all staff are familiar with them and therefore, consistency of care may be affected. All the required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and maintained to a satisfactory standard. However, policies do not reflect the new guidance in regard to the complaint procedure.

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 setting was asked to devise and implement improvements linked to the behaviour policy, improve documentation in regard to the accident and medication recording and to the daily register of attendance. The setting was also asked to improve the first aid procedures by updating the first aid certificates and checking the contents of the first aid box.

The setting has reviewed the behaviour policy and included a recording system in the event of having to restrain a child. They have improved the accident and medication documentation by ensuring parents' signatures are sought and now record the actual times of attendance of the

children on the daily register. The first aid certificates have been updated and the contents of the first aid box replaced to ensure they are in date.

The above action makes certain that documentation meets with the requirements of the National Standards and that parents are informed of any medication given or accident that occur to their child. The updating of the first aid procedures means that children are protected should there be a need for a child to receive first aid treatment.

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 all staff are aware of the written policies and procedures
- update the complaints procedure to meet with the requirements of the regulation of September 2005.

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