



Tommy's Time After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	309750
Inspection date	30 January 2007
Inspector	Margaret Baines
Setting Address	St Thomas CE School, Kepple Lane, Garstang, Preston, PR3 1PB
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Registered person	Tommy's Time Management Committee
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?

Tommy's Time After School Club opened in 1998. It operates from a large room in St Thomas CE School in the town of Garstang in North Lancashire. There is sole use of the facility during operational times. The club provides out of school care for children from St Thomas CE School.

The facility is registered for 20 children aged three to under eight years. There are currently 26 on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and children with English as a second language.

The club opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 15.00 to 18.00. The staff group are mostly all qualified to Level 3 with several working towards a childcare qualification.

The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted effectively because they enjoy a good range of activities, including outdoor play each evening, weather permitting. They run and play in the fresh air and practise physical games, such as football and rounders. They benefit greatly from the good variety of activities planned to challenge and interest them. For example, the current topic of healthy bodies provides many aspects related to being healthy.

Children are, in the main, protected from infection through adequate hygiene routines which include wiping tables before snack times. However, staff do not wear protective clothing when preparing snacks, which could be detrimental to children's health. Health and hygiene policies are implemented, for example, children are reminded of the importance of personal hygiene at appropriate times of the day. They are reminded to wash hands following outdoor play and before snack time.

Children's health is fostered through the provision of fresh fruit and bread-based snacks which they enjoy. However, the use of mainly white flour products is not a healthy option. Staff help children to learn about healthy foods through topics and various activities. Children enjoy regular drinks, which they can help themselves to at any time. Juice or water are served at snack time so ensuring children have their thirsts quenched very well throughout the sessions. The children organised a fund raising session, and purchased a water cooler for use in the after school club as one of the items from the proceeds of their efforts.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in premises that are well maintained. They benefit from sufficient space and suitable facilities indoors and out of doors. Effective procedures are in place to protect children from harm, for example, the exit is monitored and no unauthorised persons are allowed access.

Toys and equipment conform to required safety standards and are checked for their suitability. This ensures that children have a safe selection of toys to choose from. Children make choices from a good selection of toys and equipment that are age appropriate, therefore they find them exciting and fun. For example, they happily play with the small world toys and the home corner, and they enjoy the craft table. Children also have good opportunities to enjoy outdoor play throughout the sessions.

Children are encouraged to keep themselves safe by observing the rules, such as walking and not running indoors, and they pick up toys and help to tidy these away. They have the opportunity to practise the evacuation procedure on a regular basis to familiarise themselves with the evacuation of the premises in safety.

The protection of the children is maintained through the staff's knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's guidance. They have good understanding of child protection issues and how to safeguard the children in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of toys and equipment which contribute to the happy, exciting time they spend in the setting. They have good opportunities to be involved in craft activities, play a variety of outdoor games, enjoy the construction resources or simply a quiet activity. Children spoken to were very happy with the activities planned and the resources made available to them. For example, they happily created the food collages, played the computer games, enjoyed the role play and the construction. Areas are well defined and the children choose where they would like to play. For example, they may sit and chat in the quiet area, play out of doors, choose a board game, a construction challenge or enjoy a craft. The variety of areas and the resources provide interesting challenges and opportunities for the children.

Children are valued because staff listen to them and take on board their ideas and suggestions, for example, the children suggest ideas when new toys are purchased. Children confidently make their needs known. Staff engage in conversation with the children freely and interact with them on their level, which promotes the children's self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are actively encouraged to make choices about the toys and games they wish to play with. Their experience of the wider world is promoted through planned activities, for example, they enjoy aspects of festivals such as Chinese New Year. They celebrate Christian festivals and they explore foods from around the world. Currently the topic of healthy bodies gives children the opportunity to explore different foods. Children develop a positive attitude to race, culture and disability because staff are skilled at promoting this aspect of care. However, there are few positive images of race, culture and disability displayed within the setting.

Children are well behaved. They know what is expected of them through close relationships fostered with the staff. Staff are very good role models. There is a clear and fair policy of dealing with behaviour and bullying issues and this helps to promote children's self-esteem. Children know that they can discuss any concerns with staff and this helps them to feel secure in the setting. Staff know children's names and take the time to get to know them individually to ensure that each child feels valued. Children consequently settle well and develop a good sense of belonging.

Children with additional needs are welcomed into the group. Activities and equipment are adapted to ensure all children are able to participate fully. Children with additional needs are well supported to ensure they enjoy their time in the setting.

Children benefit from continuity of care as the setting has an established staff group who know the children well. Parents know that they can discuss issues at any time. The information parents

receive about the setting is satisfactory, informing parents about all aspects of the after school club. There is always a verbal exchange of information at the end of each session. Parents value the service and appreciate the enjoyment that their children experience when attending.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the smooth running of the setting and the clear routines, which make them feel secure. The manager uses good induction procedures and ensures that staff are appropriately vetted and qualified. Staff have the opportunity to participate in additional training to complement their existing childcare experience. Staff are aware of their role within the group and they work well together to promote the effective running of the provision.

Records are in place and detail the individual requirements of each child, with relevant consents and contacts. Policies and procedures are in place to promote the safety and wellbeing of the children present in the group.

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 agreed to record visitors' and staff's arrival and departure times and insert the regulator's contact details on the complaints policy. The registered provider also agreed to complete risk assessments for safety and security arrangements for use of school hall. There is now a visitors' book in place, staff arrival and departure times are recorded and the contact details for the regulator are in place in the complaints policy. The provider has compiled a comprehensive risk assessment for the use of the school hall. The improvements have enhanced the care for the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 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 complaint record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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 staff preparing snacks wear protective clothing
- provide additional positive images of race and culture to reflect our multi cultural society.

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