



## Olow Out of School Care

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY302920
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 November 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Diane Ashplant
<b>Setting Address</b>	Olow Parish Hall, 566 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands, B90 4AY
<b>Telephone number</b>	0121 745 2799
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Christine D'Arcy
<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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Olow Out Of School Club opened under a new registration in 2005. It operates from the parish hall situated on the site of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church and Primary School in Shirley, Solihull. The club has use of the whole hall which contains 2 large rooms, an entrance area, toilets and kitchen. There is an adjoining fully enclosed outdoor play area and the children can also use the school playing fields. The group is registered to care for a maximum of 32 children at any one time, and there are currently 54 children from 4 to 11 years on roll. The club operates every week day during school term time and sessions are from 07.20 to 08.30 hrs and from 15.35 to 18.00 hrs. The club serves the children who attend Our Lady of the Wayside

Infant and Junior school and children attend for a variety of sessions.

There are four staff who work with the children. All are experienced in working with children and half hold an appropriate early years qualification. The setting receives support from the local authority early years service.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to exercise their bodies and develop physical skills as they have easy access to a newly refurbished outdoor play area. They also have good opportunities to use the space available inside to enjoy skipping, hoops and other interesting equipment to exercise limbs. Children understand the importance of protecting themselves from infection as they wash their hands before snack time. Children are well protected in the event of accident or illness by the clear procedures in place and the first aid knowledge of the staff who look after them.

Children enjoy breakfast and a good variety of tea-time snacks which always includes an interesting selection of fresh fruit. Children have regular drinks and can independently access water at any time. Children benefit from a good social time round the table where they share tasks like distributing the food and exchange relaxed conversation. This helps them develop a good awareness of the benefits of a healthy diet.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the opportunity to use a large area to relax in after school with a choice of rooms which are used by pre-school children during the day and are child-orientated and attractively decorated. Children are protected from harm by the staff's clear understanding of potential hazards and the appropriate procedures they conscientiously carry out, such as safe collection. Children are able to move safely and confidently throughout the hall as they understand the guidelines in place and take responsibility for their own safety. Children engage in a variety of opportunities which are carefully organised to take into account the safety of others, for example, the restriction of physical play to one particular area inside. Regular checks and careful selection ensure that all equipment is well maintained so children can access these safely.

Children's well-being is further safeguarded by the staff's clear knowledge of their role and responsibilities in child protection which is effectively shared with parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children enter and settle down confidently when they arrive from school as they understand the routine well. They independently get ready for snack time and sociably chat about events of the day as they wait at the table. Children are able to relax and unwind after school as they choose from a good range of play opportunities which are well set out to encourage their participation. Consequently they share imaginative play with their companions in the home corner, enjoy creating their own stencils and pictures or make space machines out of lego. Children are interested and well occupied as there is a good balance of adult and child-directed sessions which always includes a focus craft activity. Children and staff have good relationships and engage happily in discussion with each other as the children initiate their own play. Children also have daily opportunities to participate in some form of physical play either outside or inside.

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

The provision is good.

Children and parents enter happily into this welcoming environment where they are recognised and valued as individuals. Children are developing their social awareness as they share in tasks at snack time and support the youngest members as they settle in. Children can choose from a variety of play and learning resources although those which extend their understanding of the wider world are limited. There are clear guidelines in place so that children understand how to play well and respect each other. Children learn how to behave well through having good role models and receiving regular encouragement from staff.

Partnership with parents is open and friendly and staff are very approachable. This means there is daily opportunity to share information and ensure consistency of approach so that children's needs are appropriately met and they settle well.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children enter confidently and happily into the club which is well-organised to provide a good range of opportunities to engage them after school. The hall is set out effectively so that children can select their own play activities from a variety of directed and free-choice opportunities. Staff work well together and know the children well and children benefit from their wide range of experience and different approaches. Most of the required documentation is in place and is well maintained and generally shared effectively with parents, However, some policies and procedures need to be updated in line with current developments. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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 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):

- develop the opportunities for children to extend their knowledge of the wider world through resources, activities and discussion
- review and extend the procedures for assessing the suitability of staff.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)