



Little Cherubs After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	501482
Inspection date	07 February 2007
Inspector	Julie Wright
Setting Address	Norris Bank Primary School, Green Lane, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 2NF
Telephone number	0161 432 3944
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Registered person	Karen Kempster
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?

Little Cherubs After School Club has been open since 1995 and operates from Norris Bank Primary School in Heaton Norris, Stockport. It is one of the Little Cherubs clubs owned by Karen Kempster and it caters for the children of the school only. Children have access to the spare classroom in the school, the main school hall, the library area and bathroom facilities. There is a large enclosed area available for outdoor play.

The after school club opens Monday to Friday from 15.00 until 17.45 during term time only and there are currently 44 children on roll, aged from four to 11 years. There are four staff members, two of whom who are suitably qualified and one who is currently attending appropriate early years training. The setting receives development support from Sure Start.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Suitable policies and procedures are in place to protect children from the risk of illness and infection. Staff implement satisfactory hygiene routines, which are encouraged with children. Tables and food preparation surfaces are routinely cleaned and appropriately prepared prior to activities. Children show competence in their personal care and they wash their hands before and after eating. They are familiar with the routines and understand the hygiene practices. Records of accidents and medication are appropriately maintained, which promote the health and safety of children. Two staff have current first aid certificates and one has completed a food hygiene course.

Children's individual dietary requirements are met in the setting. Staff provide healthy snacks, which always include fresh fruit, vegetables or salad items. Children sit together and enjoy socialising during the well organised snack time. Children choose what they would like to eat, however, opportunities for them to develop independent skills are limited. Children are sufficiently hydrated with a drink at snack time and access to a water fountain.

Children benefit from physical play opportunities during outdoor play or when they use the hall. They use a variety of equipment which promote physical skills and coordination. Children enjoy playing games and confidently organise themselves.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children show a sense of belonging and are happy as they arrive at the club. The room is reasonably well defined and organised to provide children with a choice of activities. The group operates from a classroom, with access to outdoor play, the school hall and library. Staff can provide children with a quiet area for them to relax, read or do homework as required. Children are familiar with the setting and move around with confidence. Suitable procedures are in place to ensure that areas and resources are appropriately maintained. Toys and equipment are stored safely and accessible to the children.

Children become familiar with the fire evacuation procedure as they practise the drill each term. The health and safety policies help to protect the children from the risk of accidents. Hazards are minimised and staff undertake daily visual checks, with basic checklist records maintained. Staff supervise the children well and are clearly aware of children's movements between the different areas.

The welfare of children is satisfactorily safeguarded. Staff are aware of the procedures and recognise signs for concern. The manager has attended updated training since the last inspection and takes lead responsibility for child protection issues. Parents are clearly informed of the safeguarding policy through the information file and written statement.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are familiar with the routines, secure and confident. They have warm relationships with the staff and clear friendships with each other. They settle immediately and choose which activity they would like to do. Children are occupied and interested during the session. They form small groups and play cooperatively together. Some children like to dress up and play imaginatively between themselves, whilst others prefer the creative activities. Electronic games are popular and children take turns on a rota basis with some of the equipment. They enjoy constructive play, such as making models with small bricks or threading with beads. Children take part in some organised table games which support their learning, for example, letter bingo.

Staff have weekly basic play plans, which include the ideas for activities that link to current topics. Wall displays and photographs provide evidence of a suitable range of creative opportunities for the children. They make jewellery, use potatoes and leaves for paint printing and also have various materials for cutting and sticking. Children enjoy physical play when they use resources, such as footballs, skipping ropes and a gym ball. Staff provide appropriate levels of support to children's play and have positive interactions with them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff implement a suitable policy on equal opportunities. They provide children with opportunities to develop awareness of different cultures and countries. For example, children contribute to a display relating to nations of the world. Seasonal events and celebrations are planned for and include activities, such as food tasting. Staff discuss and record the children's individual requirements with parents, in order to meet their needs. There is a clear policy and suitable procedures to promote inclusion in the setting.

Children are well behaved and respond positively to the behaviour management strategies. Children understand the rules and boundaries and follow them cooperatively. For example, they ask staff when they need to leave the room and use a board to mark when they have left and then returned. Children take turns on popular resources and share materials as they play.

Staff promote positive working relationships with parents. They provide a policy file for parents to look at during introductory visits. Staff welcome parents into the setting and have regular discussions with them. They seek parent's views through periodic questionnaires and the use of a comments box. Parents value the provision and provide positive feedback on the care given.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for and happy in the club. They are familiar with the staff and confident in their approach. Robust recruitment and vetting procedures are in place, which ensure that children are safely cared for by suitable persons. The manager and another member of staff have appropriate qualifications, although the deputy is not currently qualified to act in the

manager's absence. Training since the last inspection has been completed by the manager on first aid, food hygiene and child protection.

The room and activities are sufficiently prepared for children as they arrive. Staff provide a suitable range of activities to occupy and interest the children. The required records and documentation are appropriately maintained and promote the health, safety and welfare of children. Certificates of registration and insurance are clearly displayed, which provide assurance for parents. The setting is working towards a recognised Quality Assurance award. 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 was asked to conduct and maintain a risk assessment on the premises identifying actions to be taken to minimize identified risks. To ensure that staff comply with appropriate standards of hygiene when preparing food and have regard for the nutritional value of foods. To ensure that sufficient equipment and opportunity is available to meet the needs of children regarding imaginative and creative play. To ensure that the daily register includes details of the hours children attend. To complete the accident record fully giving more detail and include injuries a child may have on arrival. Also to maintain information that confirms suitability of all staff members including qualifications and vetting procedures.

Since then the provider has devised a basic procedure to check for hazards, staff now comply with food hygiene regulations and provide nutritional foods, the range of imaginative and creative play resources has improved, the register and accident details are appropriately recorded and there is a staff folder with details of their suitability. These actions result in improvements to the safety and welfare of children.

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 the named deputy is suitably qualified to take charge in the absence of the manager and that sufficient staff have updated knowledge and awareness of safeguarding children procedures
- improve the procedures at snack time in order to promote the children's independent skills.

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