



Grove Grangers

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY268404
Inspection date	01 March 2007
Inspector	Christine Anne Rice
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Registered person	The Grange Partnership
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?

Grove Grangers out of school club has been registered since September 2003. It is privately owned and managed by The Grange Partnership and operates from Grove Primary School on the outskirts of Harrogate. The club is registered to care for 24 children and there are currently 90 children on roll aged four to 11 years. Children have access to the school hall and a classroom which has been specifically designated by the school for the club. Children have access to the school playground for outdoor play. The group directly serves the children of the school. It is open during term time only between the hours of 07.30 and 09.00, and 15.00 and 18.00. There are two part-time members of staff. The manager has a relevant early years qualification and the other staff member is working towards a recognised qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The staff promote hygiene practices well as they act as good role models, washing their hands before preparing food and monitoring the children to ensure they wash their hands too before eating. This message is reinforced by a poster on the wall. As a result, the children wash their hands automatically and have a good understanding of why hygiene is important.

Children actively learn about healthy eating through their activities and practices. Breakfast commonly consists of porridge or cereal and toast, whilst the tea menu rotates to provide a wide variety of nutritional foods, such as rice and vegetables, pasta and sauce, or beans on toast. The children help the staff to plan the menus and draw different types of fruit, illustrating their learning of good nutrition and healthy eating. Water is available constantly as there is a water machine in the corner of the room. This helps to keep children hydrated and supports their independence.

There are comprehensive policies in place to protect the children's health, such as with regard to sickness, medication and accidents. These policies are implemented and shared with all parents. The children are afforded further protection as both the staff are qualified first aiders and have food hygiene certificates.

A strength of the provision is the daily opportunity the children have for physical development, as each afternoon session begins with outside play in the fully enclosed and secure school playground. Here they gain fresh air and exercise, enjoy a variety of large outdoor play equipment and have space to use the whole range of school physical education equipment, such as bats, balls and hoops.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The club operates from clean, warm and well-maintained premises, which are made welcoming with attractively presented displays of children's work. Dangling from a 'washing line' across the room are jellyfish which the children have made. The focus is on the classroom dedicated to the use of the club, though organised group activities take place in the hall. Outdoors, children enjoy an excellent outdoor play area with benches, fixed play equipment and a small climbing wall.

Children and parents alike are welcomed on arrival. A pre-set out, enticing array of resources and equipment makes good use of the space and beckons the children, facilitating their settling to constructive activities. Children benefit from the positive relationships they have with the staff who support, rather than take over, the children's play and activities.

There is careful attention to keeping children safe both indoors and outdoors. Staff keep a close eye on the whereabouts of the children, who act responsibly in alerting the staff if they are leaving the room, for example, to go to the toilet. The playground is fully enclosed with

secure locks on all the gates. External doors are kept locked, with a doorbell which parents ring when they arrive to collect their children. Passwords are used if someone other than a parent is collecting the children.

Children independently choose from a good range of age-appropriate toys, books, games, equipment and activities. Some children enjoy playing in the role play jungle area, whilst others enjoy drawing and making animals as part of the same theme. The staff rotate the resources and plan activities so that children are interested, stimulated and challenged, but above all have fun.

Staff have an excellent awareness of potential hazards and take positive steps to promote safety. They attach corner protectors to furniture and keep sharp objects and dangerous substances, such as cleaning materials, safely away from the children in locked wall cupboards. Outdoors, the staff are equally diligent and supervise the children well and appropriately according to age and need. They cordon off an area of the playground, beyond which children must not stray, and check that the gates are securely locked at the end of afternoon school. Regular risk assessments and the practising of the fire escape plan, which is carefully recorded, further safeguard children.

Amongst the staff there is a good awareness of child protection procedures and knowledge of their responsibilities towards the children in their care. The induction process ensures that staff are familiar with the child protection policy, which includes what to do if allegations are made against members of staff, and is shared with parents. The staff have the relevant contact numbers to hand, though some of the organisational details are out of date.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the provision, which provides a good broad range of activities inside and outside, with appeal for all ages ranging from art and craft to baking, drawing, board games, jigsaws, sand and water play, role play and construction toys. There are planned themes, which are changed every few weeks and provide a structure for the activities. Consequently, for example, in the role play area the theme of exotic animals dictates the jungle setting, where children roar noisily. On the craft table, animal print materials allow children to make creative wildlife pictures, which they proudly show to adults. Outdoors, the children chase one another around the playground excitedly, enjoying the space and fresh air. Some play in groups, some choose to challenge themselves on the climbing wall or balance on the wooden beams. Other children squeal with delight as they roll hoops, play hopscotch and fumble to catch balls that they have thrown high into the air.

The children are friendly and confident, able to assert their own needs and preferences by independently choosing activities which suit them. There is a balanced mix of activities for all ages throughout the session, with opportunities for play that is, for instance, noisy and quiet, active and more passive, individual and group, indoor and outdoor.

There are warm relationships between the children and the staff, who are kind and attentive, intervening, for instance, in the playground when children need some assistance with the play

equipment. Children of different ages and with different needs relate well to one another and play cooperatively. The staff manage the children effectively, ensuring they are all busy and happy and meeting their differing needs well. They allocate and use their time skilfully to ensure that all the children are fully involved in the activities and in such a way as to meet the needs of all children attending, including those who require more attention. As a result, the children are absorbed in their play, content and settled in an atmosphere that is calm and harmonious.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff value the children as individuals, treating them all with equal concern in order to meet their differing needs sensitively. In response, all children, including those with English as an additional language and those with learning difficulties, thoroughly enjoy the facilities of the club. Children receive praise for their achievements, such as the animals they make. As a result, children are confident, friendly and growing in self-esteem. The fact that the staff are setting up a suggestions box, where children can share their ideas for the club, demonstrates that children are listened to and respected. Staff provide opportunities for children to learn about the diversity of the world through books, toys and activities celebrating various festivals, such as Divali and Chinese New Year.

The staff's experience and specialist training in learning difficulties and disabilities is an asset to the club. Staff work with parents, other agencies and the teaching staff to inform their practice and therefore enhance the benefit children gain from the club.

Children's behaviour is managed positively and consistently with the emphasis on encouragement, according to the behaviour management policy, which is shared with parents. There are rewards of stickers and small toys, which act as positive reinforcement for good behaviour. Because the children have been involved in setting the ground rules, they own the rules and are motivated to uphold them. Having good links with the school, the club works in conjunction with class teachers, as well as parents, to avert behavioural problems and maintain continuity. The result is that children behave well, knowing what is expected of them. They play cooperatively, sharing and taking turns, and they are polite.

The staff build warm and trusting relationships with the children and parents, starting with the registration information when the children join the provision. Staff seek details about the children's likes, dislikes and any special dietary requirements and give parents an information pack, which contains details of activities and all pertinent policies. Communication with parents continues with letters, monthly newsletters and information on the parents' noticeboard. Parents receive verbal feedback at the end of the session. There have been no complaints to date and the setting maintains a complaints log and has a complaints policy, though the address of the regulator is out of date.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The person in charge, who is suitably qualified, has considerable experience in childcare. She is ably assisted by another member of staff. They both work in the school, which serves as an advantage as they are more familiar with the children, the school facilities and the teaching staff. Any staff sickness is arranged by the company which manages the club overall and is responsible for the thorough recruitment procedures. The staff stay motivated and up to date as they have regular appraisals and training opportunities, both within the company and in school.

The staff work well together as a team, instinctively sharing tasks and supervision of the children. Children benefit from the commitment and enthusiasm of staff, who are keen to improve their practice. Much thought has been given, for example, to working with the children in devising nutritious menus, which make appealing snacks at teatime.

Since the person in charge is a very capable organiser, children enjoy an environment which is calm, orderly, stimulating and supportive. Good use is made of time, space and resources so that children are sufficiently challenged and interested; for instance, all children play outside to let off steam after the school day before coming inside for quieter play. Staff plan a balanced range of activities which are flexible and responsive to the children.

There are comprehensive policies and procedures in place which have a positive impact on the children. As a result, children are happy, secure and confident. All the required documentation, such as the registers, a visitors' book and an accident book contribute to the efficient and safe management of the provision.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the provision has made the following improvements: there are now clear prior written consents from parents or carers for the administration of non-prescribed medication; and the child protection statement includes the contact names and telephone numbers of the local police and social services and the procedures to be followed in any event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 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:

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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 that the name of the organisation responsible for the protection of children and contained in the child protection policy is up to date
- ensure that the contact details for the regulator contained in the complaints procedure are up to date.

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