



St Mary's Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	303827
Inspection date	26 February 2007
Inspector	Annette Stanger
Setting Address	St Mary's Junior & Infant School, Lumb Lane, Mill Bank, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX6 3EJ
Telephone number	07765 263198
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Registered person	St Mary's Out of 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?

St Mary's Out of School Club is run by a voluntary committee. It opened in 1991 and operates from St Mary's Church of England Junior and Infant School, in Mill Bank, Sowerby Bridge. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 08.00 to 08.50 and from 15.15 to 17.45, during term time only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 29 children aged from four to under 11 years on roll. Children come from Mill Bank and the surrounding areas and all attend St Mary's Church of England Junior and Infant School. The club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties.

The club employs three members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate play work qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. They stay healthy as they are made aware of good personal hygiene practices and follow established routines, such as washing their hands before eating. Children are protected from infection and are well taken care of if they have an accident or become ill. Staff are trained in administering first aid and they keep records of all accidents. Parents are given a copy of any documented accident that their child may have had during their time at the setting. All of the required documentation is in place and this ensures that children's health needs are well met.

Children are provided with nutritiously balanced meals and snacks appropriate to their individual needs. Staff seek information regarding children's health and dietary needs and these are respected and followed. Staff have attended training in food hygiene and on healthy eating, and use this knowledge in the practice to encourage healthy living. Staff actively promote healthy living and children are helped to understand the importance of making healthy choices in leading a healthy lifestyle. For example, they learn more about the importance of healthy eating through regular discussion with staff and from visitors to the setting, such as an education officer from a large supermarket. They look at different food items with the children and discuss healthy options. Staff also planned a 'healthy week', consisting of a range of activities on healthy living. This included a competition where they designed their own healthy eating posters, as well as a visit from an athletics coach to talk to the children about how to keep fit and how exercise helps them to stay healthy.

Children take part in regular physical play, both indoors and outside at the nearby park. This supports their physical development and develops a healthy attitude to physical exercise. Children are offered a good choice of activities and resources, including a range of bat and ball and racket games. They also particularly enjoy taking part in group activities that require good coordination and balance, such as limbo.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment. They have safe access to equipment and age appropriate resources, which conform to safety standards and are well maintained. Provision is in place for children who wish to rest and relax at the end of the school day, such as large floor cushions and gym mats.

Staff supervise children well and most safety equipment is in place to minimise hazards, although staff are not always alert to ensuring these remain in place, such as socket safety covers. Children know the procedure for evacuation in an emergency and this is practised regularly with staff. This ensures they know how to vacate the premises quickly and safely in an emergency and are learning to take some responsibility for their own well-being. Staff have a good awareness of security and this prevents unauthorised access to children. All visitors are asked to sign the visitor's book and there are clear collection procedures in place to ensure children are only

collected by authorised people as detailed on their child registration form. There are procedures in place for staff to follow in the event of a child not being collected or lost.

Staff have a sound understanding of their responsibility to safeguard children's welfare and have attended relevant training. They have the local authority procedures and contact numbers for recording and reporting suspected child abuse to protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very settled, relaxed and confident in the setting. They clearly value this time at the end of the school day and eagerly participate in activities of their choice. There is a good range of well-maintained resources, which are used well to interest children and develop their learning. Many children choose to take part in creative activities and imaginative play with their peers. These involve children using different techniques in their art and craft and discussing various styles as they dress dolls in different outfits and brush and style their hair. Children also enjoy playing on the games console and cooperate well during two player games where they assist and cooperate well with one another.

Good relationships are clearly evident. Staff are skilled at taking the time to listen to children, valuing their achievements and acknowledging their efforts. As well as doing this in their daily practice staff have also demonstrated this by entering the children's creativity into competitions. This resulted in some of the children's illustrations of their family being included in a book entitled 'Me and my family', which included illustrations from after school clubs across the United Kingdom.

Staff ensure that the resources and activities provided appeal to the children's interests to keep them well occupied, keen and interested. They are experienced and know when to intervene to enhance children's play experiences and when to allow them the freedom to sit, relax and chat with friends. They are effective in their approach to consultation with children and this ensures that the experiences they provide are meaningful and enjoyable for all. Staff regularly evaluate the activities they provide, as well as listening well to children, staff have also used children questionnaires to gain their opinions of the club. They found this a valuable exercise to further enhance their practice and the experiences they provide for children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff provide an inclusive provision and all children are treated with equal concern. Children with additional needs are welcomed into the club and staff work closely with parents and other professionals to ensure children are well supported and feel safe and secure. Children are helped to consider and value diversity and this gives them a developing awareness of the wider world. Planned activities have included children exploring Chinese New Year, enjoying a Chinese banquet and making masks and lanterns.

Children behave very well. They have a good understanding of responsible behaviour because staff consistently apply positive behaviour management strategies. Children have been involved

in writing their own rules for behaviour in the club and this means they have a good awareness of expected behaviour.

Parents are provided with daily verbal feedback about their child's time at the club. They are given a welcome booklet when their child first starts, introducing them to the club and the staff. The booklet makes them aware that they can access the club's policies and procedures if they wish to, although there is no system in place to share this important information directly with parents, in particular the child protection statement. Staff regularly ask parents for their feedback and suggestions and this is done both through informal discussion and the use of parental questionnaires. However, the provider has no knowledge or understanding of the regulation regarding the recording of complaints and this is a breach of regulations. As a result, the system of recording complaints does not meet the necessary requirements.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff are well qualified and have a good understanding of the play work principles and this ensures children are well cared for and their needs met. The club is mostly well organised and staff are deployed effectively to ensure that children feel secure and supported.

The majority of the required documentation is in place, however, the provider does not have the revisions to certain criteria dated October 2005 and so does not have the latest knowledge, particularly in relation to the recording of complaints.

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 club was asked to build on the existing systems to enhance the provision for children with special educational needs. This has been fully addressed. Staffing arrangements ensure children receive the levels of additional support they may require and staff continue to work well in partnership with both parents and professionals to promote the welfare and development of children within the setting.

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):

- improve systems for sharing the policies and procedures with parents, and in particular the child protection statement
- develop the systems for the recording of complaints, in line with the regulations.

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