

Blackrod Primary Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	315907
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Inspector	Anne Mort
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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?

Blackrod Primary School Out of School Care opened in 2000 and is situated in Blackrod, near to Bolton. The facility operates from rooms within the primary school and there are currently 45 children on roll. The facility is open from 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.20 to 18.00 Monday to Friday during term time.

The children have access to the main hall, designated classrooms, ground and first floor level, the library and an Information and Technology suite. All children access outside play in the school's playground and sports field.

The facility employs eight staff, five of whom hold relevant early years qualifications with the remaining staff working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have opportunity to develop their physical ability. There is a range of resources to promote physical development. These enable children to practice fine and gross motor control. For example, indoors, children can use creativity materials and share ball games. Outside, they have the use of a variety of equipment and engage in physical activity sessions, for instance, they use bats, balls, skipping ropes and take part in running games.

Consideration is given to cleanliness and children practice good hygiene habits with hand washing a part of the daily routine. Staff promote this in ensuring toilets are clean and adequately stocked. Children's health and safety is further supported as a medicine procedure is in place, staff have had first aid training and a first aid box is readily accessible. Staff respond appropriately in the event of an accident and issue an advice notice should a child bump their head, but not all parents sign to acknowledge the accident record.

Children's dietary needs are given due consideration. Parents have the opportunity to note any special requirement. Their wishes are respected and staff work in consultation with them to provide children with a balanced diet that accommodates parental preference. On the whole children's needs for a healthy diet are met and forward planning illustrates a menu that includes healthy options. For instance, in breakfast club children enjoy cereal and yoghurt, whilst the out of school care menu offers fruit, pasta, ham and cheese. Due to problems with the freezer on the day of inspection where foodstuff had become spoiled, children had a choice of sausage, cheese or vegetarian rolls with fruit salad. An alternative to the sweet was not readily available and, when offered, resulted in some children having a cream cracker after the drinks had been cleared away. However, children are usually aided in their understanding of healthy eating and for instance, take part in creating their own pizza.

Children choose their place at the table and friends sit together. Their emotional needs are being met due to the staff presenting tea time as a relaxed, sociable occasion.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is promoted by the physical layout of the rooms with care taken to present uncluttered floors and clear walking space near doorways. This allows children to move round the provision independently and freely explore the environment both indoors and outside. Children have adequate knowledge and experience of the emergency evacuation procedure for the club.

Children are given choices and select activities from a range of toys and equipment. Staff monitor the presentation of play materials to make sure they are interesting and support children's developing skills. On the day of inspection children spend their time mainly outdoors, but photographic evidence illustrates the presentation of good quality resources for indoor play, such as, creativity materials, dolls, farm animals, construction, games and table football.

On the whole, staff take reasonable steps to ensure children's safety. They ensure registration of the children on site as they enter and note when they leave the club. Younger children are escorted from their classroom to the club and older children know the designated meeting

room. There are guidelines in place for staff to follow should a child not be collected but not for if a child should become lost.

Children's safety is promoted, however, there was some delay before a member of staff asked two members of the public, who were playing golf on the school's playing field, to move well away from the club's outside play area where children were enjoying the warm weather and using outdoor equipment. Children's welfare is given due consideration by the procedures in place and documents held about child protection. The manager has a good level of awareness of her role in child protection issues and in-service courses are available to staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well in the provision. They are at ease and relate well to the staff and to each other. They play either independently or in a small group and have ample opportunity to develop social and physical skills. Children from a different school attend this facility and are made very welcome by both the staff and children. Children choose from a variety of resources. They are motivated and interested due to the commitment of the staff who plan and present stimulating activities, such as creativity sessions and outside games

Children rapidly develop their language skills as staff use age appropriate conversation, ask questions and listen to the children's response. Staff promote the children's independence by offering varying levels of support. Children are encouraged to try activities themselves, for instance, skipping and bat and ball play.

Children's opinions are valued and a survey sheet reveals the specific areas of play or resources they enjoy. The manager then seeks to add to resources when monetary funds allow. Children spend their time purposefully and thoroughly enjoy exploring a range of interesting play materials. They are becoming aware of the wider world due to staff giving consideration to the resources made available and the celebration of cultural events throughout the year.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's needs are well met as they take part in a care routine agreed between staff at the provision and the parents. Staff are very mindful of children's interests and needs after the more formal school day and free choice activities are on offer. The opinions of children are valued and a survey conducted. Children's written comments reveal that they enjoy their time at the club. All children are welcome in the provision and the manager seeks additional information where a child has a specific need.

Children are very well behaved due to the staff working in a calm and consistent manner. Staff use a friendly approach and listen to the children and value their input into a conversation. Children are supported and supervised by staff and choose whether to play indoors or outside. This develops their independence and they choose to engage in activities that interest them, for instance, indoors, a shared ball game with a member of staff, whilst outside choosing more boisterous play or being seated and enjoying the company of their friends.

Children's care and well-being is promoted. Parents note on documentation all relevant details about their child to enable appropriate care to be given. There are arrangements in place for staff to exchange information about a child and the day's events when the child is collected.

Partnership with parents is further supported by an information sheet on display that informs of the activities on offer and by a parental questionnaire issued at the end of the year asking for parents to comment about the quality of the service. Documentation reveals that parents are very happy with the care and attention given to their child and the quality of the activities on offer.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare and all round development is promoted. Children are secure and at ease in the organised play environment. Staff are aware to keep children safe from persons who have not undertaken a vetting procedure.

Children use a tidy, uncluttered room that leads to an outdoor play area. This area gives space for free movement and exploration. Children's needs are met as staff manage their time to both supervise and join in the children's play. They attend to children's developmental needs and interests in the provision of suitable resources.

Children have also been accessing a first floor classroom for play and relaxation. This is a breach of a regulation as the registered body did not inform Ofsted. However, the safety of children is being maintained as staff undertake a risk assessment of the room before allowing children to enter and supervise children on the stairs.

On the day of inspection some policies were not on site, however on the whole documentation is held in line with the National Standards for out of school care and was readily available to the inspector. It is used to promote the welfare of children and information about each child is documented. 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 there was a recommendation to provide a written statement relating to the specific needs of children and ensure it is consistent with current legislation. In addition the provider was to review the child protection policy and the system of registering of staff and children on the premises on a daily basis.

Children's welfare and safety is now better supported as there has been a review and update of the child protection policy and the attendance register. Children with specific needs are welcome in the club but the documentation relating to this was not available at the time of the inspection.

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 partnership with parents by ensuring their signature on accident recording
- promote children's safety by establishing a clearly defined procedure to be followed by staff should a child become lost
- ensure all policies and procedures are available on site
- establish a system whereby Ofsted is always informed of a change in the use of the premises, or of any significant event.

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