

# Skittles I

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	508550
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 March 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Elaine Marie McDonnell
<b>Setting Address</b>	Chandlers Ridge Primary School, Chandlers Ridge, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS7 0JL
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<b>Registered person</b>	Mrs Christine Pratt and Mrs Sheila Fisher
<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?

Skittles I is one of four provisions registered to the same owners; this facility offers before and after school care and was registered in September 1991. The provision operates from the school hall of Chandlers Ridge Primary School in the Nunthorpe area of Middlesbrough. A maximum of 50 children from three years to under eight years may attend at any one time; children over eight years are also cared for. The facility operates from 08.00 to 09.00 and from 15.30 to 17.30 each weekday during school term time. Holiday care is provided by Skittles on another school site during school holidays.

There are currently 77 children on roll aged from three to 11 years. Average daily attendance is approximately 19 children for morning sessions and 30 children for after school care. The provision serves children attending this school or nursery class only. The setting supports children with learning difficulties.

Five members of staff are employed to work directly with the children including the joint managers. Of these, three members of staff have a relevant childcare qualification, one member of staff has a teaching assistant certificate and the other member of staff has a sports studies qualification.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because staff follow current and appropriate health and hygiene guidelines, such as ensuring the premises and equipment are clean. Children are encouraged to learn about good health and hygiene practices throughout the daily routine, such as regular hand washing procedures. Comprehensive accident and illness procedures are in place to protect children's overall health. A suitable first aid box is available, however, it currently contains some additional items. Accidents are appropriately recorded, parents sign records and receive a copy of the accident report.

Children are well nourished. Cereal and toast are offered for a certain time during the morning session and fruit, raw vegetables and juice are provided after school. Children have their health and dietary needs met because staff work well with parents to obtain written information about any allergies, health problems, likes and dislikes. Children learn about healthy living when discussing why fruit and vegetables are offered at snack time rather than biscuits and other less healthy items.

Children have good opportunities to enjoy physical activity. They participate in large physical play on a daily basis either inside the hall or in one of the outdoor play areas. Quiet and restful activities are also available for children if they prefer, such as drawing and colouring in.

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

The provision is good.

Good steps have been taken to ensure that children are cared for in a safe environment. For example, the premises are kept secure, a record of visitors is maintained and risk assessments have been conducted. Very comprehensive health and safety procedures are in place. Good steps have been taken to ensure that children are kept safe when playing outdoors and when on outings, for example, they are well supervised and detailed outings procedures are in place.

The environment is warm and welcoming for the children with resources readily available for them to choose from. They have suitable access to a good range of toys, equipment and furniture and staff ensure that resources are safe and suitable for children's use with regular checking routines. Children learn to keep themselves safe when involved in fire drills.

Children are well protected because staff understand their role in relation to child protection issues and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. Comprehensive procedures are in place and staff demonstrate a good understanding of the different areas of abuse, possible signs and the procedures to be followed.

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

The provision is good.

Children are involved in a good range of activities that cover all areas of development. For example, they participate in large physical play indoors and outdoors, they cooperate well when playing board games with rules, they enjoy a varied range of craft activities as well as pretend play with small world items and construction materials.

Children develop confidence and self esteem well when being praised and encouraged by staff, for example, when colouring in Easter pictures. They show a lot of interest in what they do and enjoy the activities and resources available. Children have good opportunities to be independent and use their initiative when deciding what to play with and whether they want to play indoors or outdoors. They are acquiring good social skills when cooperating with others and taking turns. Children respond to challenge and concentrate well when involved in a colouring in competition and when building with wooden bricks.

Children have opportunities to learn about wider society and begin to appreciate their own culture and the cultural traditions of others. For example, they participate in activities relating to Easter and to Chinese New Year.

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

The provision is good.

Equal opportunities is well promoted as children are included and involved. Their individual needs are being met. Comprehensive procedures are in place for the identification and assessment of children with learning difficulties or disabilities. There are currently no children with any disabilities or who speak English as an additional language attending the setting.

Children enjoy being at the out of school club and enjoy the activities available, they are settled and happy and make positive relationships with adults and peers. Children are well behaved and behaviour is calmly and effectively managed by staff, who demonstrate a good understanding of how to promote positive behaviour.

The setting works well in partnership with parents and carers. Parents are kept informed of their child's development and progress through regular discussions with staff. Parents receive good quality information about the provision and have good access to the setting's policy and procedure documents. Contract agreements are in place and appropriate consent forms from parents are available. Comprehensive complaints procedures are in place, including the procedure to be followed if children have a complaint about the provision.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Comprehensive recruitment, vetting and induction procedures are in place and are rigorous and robust enough to ensure that children are well protected and cared for by staff with relevant experience, knowledge and skills. Staff's training needs are assessed and met on an ongoing basis and training is discussed during staff meetings. Staff have access to ongoing training and development courses and some are in the process of completing a first aid course over a four week period. There is currently one member of staff with a suitable first aid certificate on duty at all times.

Staff have very high regard for the well-being of all children and children receive very good adult support and attention. Attendance records and observation show that adult to child ratios are effectively maintained and are often above minimum requirements. Group size and deployment of staff contribute positively to children's care, learning and play. For example, children break into different groups for different activities, both indoors and outdoors, all of which are well supervised by staff.

All records and documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available, including detailed and comprehensive policy and procedure documents. Staff files are stored at the provider's home for security reasons. Policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. 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 ensure that child protection procedures are shared with parents before admission to day care. Partnership with parents has improved as all parents have good access to the policies and procedures of the setting, including the child protection policy, before their child starts at the provision.

### **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 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):

- ensure that the first aid box contains only items as determined in the first aid training course.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)