



Lord Deramore's After School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	502006
Inspection date	17 January 2007
Inspector	Rosemary Beyer
Setting Address	Lord Deramore's Primary School, School Lane, Heslington, York, North Yorkshire, YO10 5EE
Telephone number	01904 431980
E-mail	
Registered person	Lord Deramore's After School
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?

Lord Deramore's After School Club was registered in October 1992 and operates from portable classrooms on the premises of the Lord Deramore's Primary School in Heslington. The setting offers care for 24 children aged four years to seven years and currently operates sessions from 08.00 to 08.50 and 15.15 to 17.45, Monday to Friday, term time only. The club serves the children who attend the school and currently has 40 children on roll; care is also available for children aged eight years to 12 years who are catered for in a separate building on site.

The management of the setting is undertaken by a committee of parents. There are nine staff employed. Most have appropriate playwork qualifications, but all have experience; others are working towards qualifications. The number of staff present each session depends on the number of children attending. Sessions take place in a mobile classroom with a secure outside area solely for the use of the out of school club.

Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are welcome. Children with English as an additional language are cared for and the group has procedures in place to help them settle and enjoy themselves.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

An effective written sick child policy is in place, which parents respect. Children who are ill do not attend the group and, if they are taken ill, parents collect them early. In the case of illness, children use the book area to sit quietly, with staff attending to their needs and ensuring they are comfortable. The information sheets completed when children start to attend contain contact details for their parents and doctor. Parents give written permission for the administration of any medication, although most children can self-medicate, and also for the staff to seek medical help in an emergency. Administration of medication is recorded for parents to acknowledge. Most of the staff have current first aid certificates and a very well-stocked first aid box is available.

Children are aware of the need to implement good hygiene practice consistently, although they do not have access to toilets and wash basins on the premises, but have to go into the main school building. They use the school toilets and wash their hands each evening before coming into the club, then have their drink and biscuit on arrival, followed by toast or bread and spread. Germs can, however, be spread if they play on the floor or touch other resources before eating. Children are accompanied to the toilets by staff, and know they need to wash their hands after personal care. Tables are cleaned with antibacterial cleaner.

The children are learning to take care of their bodies through visits from dentists and local nurses, who provide information about brushing teeth and healthy eating, although the children are not keen to eat fruit as part of their snack. They also learn about the need to keep fit through physical exercise, which they enjoy when playing outside, weather permitting. A good range of sporting resources is available including goal posts and footballs. When inside, the children move around safely and with good control, taking account of their friends playing on the floor.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for on secure premises where admission to other persons is allowed only by staff; even parents are not admitted by children. They are well supervised, with registers used to ensure all the children are collected from their classes and then present in the out of school premises. Parents sign their children out on collection and include the time they leave in the register. Children know they must not leave the premises without staff or parental permission. Lost and missing child policies and procedures are in place, which work effectively as they are used if children do not arrive due to illness, and parents are contacted when the absences are noted. One parent contacted the staff as they were collecting the children to inform them her child had gone straight home due to illness.

Staff have a good knowledge of health and safety requirements and the poster is displayed on the board. The resources and equipment are regularly checked and well maintained, with both staff and children sharing responsibility for removal of damaged or dirty items, whether for repair or cleaning. The children use the equipment safely, and also the space available, moving around carefully and with control. They take turns and share, with co-operation between older and younger children to support their endeavours. Children have simple rules in place to prevent accidents; for example, they do not run inside.

Fire equipment is in place and checked by the school. A fire drill is posted on the board and practised each half term. It is recorded appropriately and monitored to ensure all staff have experience and know the procedure well. They ensure the staff and visitors present are also noted.

Staff have a good knowledge of child protection procedures and ensure unauthorised persons do not have access to the children. They know their prime concern is the welfare of the child, and that they must respect confidentiality, wherever possible. A procedure is in place for allegations against staff, which makes it clear any investigation is to be undertaken by outside agencies. The procedure has, however, not been updated to include the changes to legislation and organisation of child protection services.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children arrive happily, keen to see what is available. There is a very wide range of resources and activities available, for all ages and abilities, both for inside and outside play. Activities are planned by staff but the children also select resources for themselves to support their interests. Craft and mark-making equipment is available at all times, with some children using reference books to draw Roman armour and battle ships, while others use paint for printing. Other children made very imaginative extra terrestrial beings with the construction toys.

During discussion, the children said they like the freedom to choose what they want to do, or the fact they do not have to do anything but can just sit watching their friends. They enjoy being cared for by the staff, with whom they feel comfortable and settled. Children who attend after school activities are made welcome on their arrival and happily join in with the other children. Some of the parents collect children later as they do not wish to leave the group.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

New children to the school are provided with a small brochure and an application form for the out of school when they start to attend. Committee members attend the parents' evenings to discuss the group with the parents and to answer any questions they may have. The school secretary provides a registration form for completion by parents, who are free to visit the group and even stay while their children settle. Parents receive a newsletter each term with information about any changes or any special activities, such as the music group visits and future fundraising events. Parents are also asked for their opinion of the group, any concerns and any suggestions.

The questionnaire circulated to parents by the group did not receive much response, but the comments received were all positive.

Parents express great satisfaction with the setting. They value the care and support provided by staff and are confident their children are safe and well cared for. Some parents delay the collection times as their children do not wish to leave the group to come home early. They like the fact children have a choice of activities and are quite happy if their children wish to participate or just sit quietly or read. Parents of children with English as an additional language feel welcome in the group and the staff help them to become involved in the group and the local community. The group is run by a management committee of parents and they are encouraged to participate in supporting the out of school.

The children themselves like the group. They enjoy the range of activities provided, like being able to choose other things to do, and enjoy being with their friends. They say the staff look after them very well.

Children of different cultures and nationalities are welcome in the group. Children of students at the local university attend the school so there is a diverse population with many different first languages. The children know they must treat each other with equal respect whatever their background. By celebrating festivals, children are introduced to different cultures and particularly enjoy trying different foods and crafts. They like the prawn crackers which were provided for Chinese New Year, and the sweets they made for Divali. Parents are happy to give advice about the cultures and some have come to the sessions in national costume.

The group makes children with learning difficulties and disabilities welcome, and takes account of their needs when they start to attend. Good communication with parents ensures their needs can be met, and funding has in the past been obtained to support their care.

All the children behave very well; they have clear guidance about what is acceptable in the group and are therefore very polite, co-operative and supportive of each other. The older children encourage the younger ones in their play and help them if they need assistance.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Robust systems are in place for the employment of staff, although most of them have been with the group for several years. Most are qualified and experienced, and those who do not have qualifications are working towards them. The group has a positive attitude to training and staff are encouraged to widen their knowledge and take opportunities to further their own personal development.

The registration certificate is displayed and the conditions respected. Sufficient staff are in post to ensure good supervision, with account taken of the fact that staff need to go into the school when children visit the toilet. A daily register is completed, with times noted when children arrive and leave the setting. Parents sign their children out when they collect them.

Well-written comprehensive policies and procedures are in place and used effectively to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting. The complaints procedure is made available to parents and a record of complaints is available, complete with Ofsted contact details. Paperwork is stored securely and confidentiality respected.

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 group was asked to ensure staff maintain an up to date knowledge of health and safety requirements. A new poster is now on display and the staff talk about safety concerns at their staff meetings.

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):

- develop a method of ensuring children's hands are clean without the use of the hand wash basins in the school
- ensure the child protection policy and procedures are updated to take account of recent changes.

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