



## Lowton West Time Out Club

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY266395
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 January 2007
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<b>Registered person</b>	Time Out Club Management Committee
<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Time Out Club was registered in 2003. It operates from a designated room and has use of facilities within Lowton West Primary School, which is situated in the area of Wigan. The club serves families who use the school. The club is registered for 16 children aged from three to eight years and there are currently 16 children on roll. There is a waiting list for places to attend the club. The group supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

The club opens five days a week during term times. Sessions are from 07.30 until 08.45 and 15.10 until 17.45. Two permanent staff are employed to work with the children both of whom hold early years qualifications and the play work certificate Level 3. The group receives support from Wigan Sure Start.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well protected from illness and infection because the staff conscientiously follow current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines. There are good routines in place for the cleaning of the premises and staff ensure that toys are regularly cleaned and surfaces wiped down with anti-bacterial spray after meals and messy play. Children clearly understand simple good health and hygiene practices and they all wash their hands before handling food and after using the bathroom. They speak about why they have to wash hands to prevent germs. They are fully aware of their hygiene routines when they arrive at the club from the classrooms. However, staff are not suitably qualified in first aid and their certificates have not been updated. This is a breach of regulation.

Daily indoor and outdoor routines include activities to help children develop physical skills and promote a healthy lifestyle. They make good use of the outdoor playgrounds running in the fresh air and indoors in the school hall competing in games, such as dodge ball and using the dance mats.

Children understand the importance of having regular drinks to stay hydrated as they help themselves to water from the fountains available in the room and designated areas of the school. Children enjoy nutritious snacks and are given a variety of fruits, hot foods and cheese and crackers. They enjoy their breakfast cereals during the morning session. Snack times are happy social occasions where children relax and enjoy each other's company. The children's dietary requirements are met well as staff work with parents in finding out their child's requirements and respectfully follow these.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and stimulating environment. The resource room is used appropriately to allow children to access different play areas. They confidently choose from an accessible, wide range of toys and equipment that are age appropriate. They develop independence as they choose from equipment which is easily accessed on low tables, or at floor level around the room. Children confidently ask for toys that are not out. The resources are clean, safe and well maintained to ensure the children's safety.

Children move around in a safe environment where risks are identified and minimised. The school respond quickly to any maintenance requests and all necessary checks are carried out on the building and facilities. There are procedures to record all the arrivals and departures of children. Children have opportunities to practise fire drills, reminding them what to do in the event of a fire or an emergency evacuation. They are aware of letting staff know when they are leaving the room and going to the toilet area.

Children's welfare is protected because staff have a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. A detailed child protection policy is in place which includes procedures in the event of an allegation made against staff.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and play harmoniously together in the relaxed and friendly environment. They relate well to staff and talk positively about their experiences in the club. Older children take delight in looking after younger children helping them to settle and become confident. Staff support children and skilfully plan a wide range of activities, following a weekly programme with regular new themes introduced. Children are motivated in a good balance of adult and child led opportunities. Play plans are evaluated to ensure that the children fully enjoy the activity and record how it went. They constantly ask children their opinions on the session and ask them to contribute to the planning.

Children play imaginatively with their friends with the small world. They enjoy playing on the games console. Creative opportunities allow children to explore a variety of media, as they make cards and create pictures using fuzzy felts. They create their own designs when making bead mats and robots and choose from an interesting range of stimulating activities and resources available to them. All board games encourage the taking of turns, and promote their knowledge and skills. They talk positively about their experiences and objects when their parents come to pick them up and to visitors. A quiet area enables them to sit and read a book for pleasure.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children receive good staff support to ensure they all feel included and they follow a structured routine in the club. Activities, such as Chinese New Year are planned. However, there are insufficient activities and resources available to enable children to have a full awareness of diversity.

Children are well behaved and say please and thank you at snack time and during group activities. The staff are good role models, they speak calmly and quietly to the children and have good strategies in place for achieving appropriate behaviour. Children contribute to the making of ground rules and they are aware that certain rules and respect are required to maintain a safe and fair environment where they can play happily and have fun. Staff promote children's self-esteem and confidence as they praise their efforts and allow them to display their work around the walls.

Staff have built up good relationships with parents and create a welcoming atmosphere. Positive feedback from parents indicates a high level of care is provided. A notice board and a detailed brochure displays information about day to day events and policies within the club. They receive verbal feedback on a daily basis about their child's activities. A written complaints procedure

is in place, and any complaints will be dealt with appropriately. This effective communication between parents and staff provides consistency for children in their care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Staff are experienced, qualified and demonstrate a commitment to work well together. They meet regularly to ensure they are all aware of the children's individual needs and intend to undertake relevant training. They have a good relationship with the headteacher, school staff and the voluntary committee which enables them to meet the children's individual needs. They also liaise with Wigan Sure Start and the Quality Assurance scheme. They respond to the children's interests and are deployed effectively. Effective recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are well protected and cared for by staff. A good induction policy is in place. Children actively participate in the interesting activities available. The accommodation is divided into areas to ensure the children experience a range of different types of play. The room is set up well before the children arrive and children are familiar with their routines.

All policies and procedures are in place, which contributes to the safety and well-being of children being cared for. Policies are regularly reviewed by the staff and the committee. These are shared with parents to keep them well informed about their service and their child's development. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

On the last inspection the group were asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity, to make improvements to the room and have sole use to freely play in.

Staff have purchased a few items of equipment. However, they are still in the process of planning activities and resources to enable children to have a full awareness of different cultures and diversity. The group have a new kitchen in the room and have organised activities and space to enable children to play safely and relax.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 April 2004 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 by 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):

- ensure at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate is on the premises at any one time
- provide resources and activities that promote equality of opportunity and diversity.

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)