



Carlton Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector	Tracey Jane Outram
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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?

Carlton Out of School Club is a privately owned provision which opened in March 2004. It operates from designated rooms on the site of Carlton Primary School. In the school holidays the club offers a service to all children living in the local and surrounding areas; however, during the term time the club only serves those children who attend the school. The setting is registered to provide care for 24 children at any one time and there are currently 120 children on roll.

The club opens five days a week during term time from 07.30 until 09.00 and 15.10 until 18.00. In the school holidays opening hours are from 07.30 until 18.00. The setting currently looks after children with learning difficulties and disabilities. There are four members of staff who work with the children; two of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications and two who are working towards a recognised qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children's good health is promoted because staff follow effective health and safety policies. This includes monitoring the children to ensure that they comply with the familiar daily routines, such as washing their hands. The premises remain hygienic at all times and staff take positive steps to thoroughly clean the food preparation areas, toilets and the equipment. Consequently, opportunities for the transfer of infection are minimized. All staff have completed first aid training and there is fully stocked first aid kit, which is taken on all outings; as a result they are well prepared to deal with any accidents or incidents involving the children in their care.

Effective communication with parents ensures that staff are able to positively address children's personal health requirements. For example, they are knowledgeable regarding the children's allergies and food intolerances. Similarly, members of staff ensure that meal times are sociable and the children enjoy a variety of hot and cold snacks. Nutritious options, such as fruit and cereals are always available and the staff work hard to encourage the children to independently make healthy choices. Parents are informed of the meal plans and in the school holidays they are asked to provide packed lunches for their children, which are stored appropriately. The children enjoy access to drinks throughout the session because there is a water fountain that they can use independently. In addition, at other set times the children are offered a choice of cold and warm drinks, such as tea.

The children benefit from fresh air and exercise each day; staff plan physical activities, such as team games, music, drama and dance. They have the use of the large school hall and the secure outside play area where they benefit from using large climbing apparatus, which aids coordination, strength and balance.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. They are able to safely access good quality equipment and toys. All of the resources that are provided to the children meet the required safety standards; in addition they are regularly checked to ensure that they do not pose a risk to children.

Staff are vigilant; they monitor and supervise the children as they enjoy the activities on offer. The children have a growing awareness of how to maintain their personal safety because staff practise the fire escape procedures on a regular basis and they are helping children to assess risks as part of the everyday activity plan. For example, the children are learning how to safely use equipment, such as knives and scissors as they participate in supervised activities. In order to promote independence, the children are allowed to visit the bathroom, unaccompanied by an adult. However, this means that they have access to an unsecured external door, which is a hazard because it provides opportunities for the children to leave the premises unsupervised.

Members of staff have a clear understanding of their role in safeguarding children and they are familiar with some of the indicators of child abuse and neglect. A written procedure is in operation and the contact details of the Local Safeguarding Children Board are easily accessible. As a result, staff are able to act appropriately and swiftly to deal with any concerns raised about children in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are happy and settled within the setting. They demonstrate a strong sense of belonging and they benefit from warm and friendly relationships with the staff. The children confidently make choices regarding the types of activities that wish to participate in. For instance, some children particularly enjoy music, drama and dance while others select quieter activities, such as using game consoles or art and craft activities. The children are encouraged to have a say in how the club operates and they are included in making some decisions; for example, their views are collected and respected on the occasions when new equipment is being purchased.

The children are well supported by the staff who are skilled at encouraging children to extend their ideas by listening and talking to them. Overall, the children have access to a suitable range of developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor play equipment, although these are not always sufficiently organised to provide a rich experience for children of all ages.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Members of staff are able to deal with a wide range of children's behaviour sensitively. They are thoughtful and consistent in their approach, consequently, the children are beginning to develop an understanding of how their behaviour affects others and they make some positive attempts to share and take turns. Clearly written procedures help staff to address equal opportunities and deal with any issues arising from bullying. Suitable provision is available to meet the needs of children with disabilities and learning difficulties because staff have a positive attitude towards inclusion.

Members of staff maintain friendly relationships with the children's parents and they ensure that they have access to a range of written information about the provision. For instance, newsletters are regularly sent home and parents have access to an informative notice board, which contains helpful information about the setting, such as insurance details and staff qualifications. Policies and procedures are stored in the 'parents pack' and daily verbal communication ensures that staff and parents share the necessary information required to successfully address children's changing needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children's needs are met through generally effective organisation. For example, staff interact with the children and they ensure that the daily routines are suitable to address their health and welfare. Adult to child ratios are maintained appropriately and there are clear systems in place for the recruitment and vetting of all staff working with the children. The staff team are well established and they have clear systems in place to share relevant information, which assists them to cater for the children's individual needs. However, there are some occasions when the care of the older children distracts from the care of the younger ones.

Most of the required documentation is in place to support the care of the children; registers of attendance are accurately completed, medication records are maintained and children's personal details are recorded and stored confidentially. There are appropriate procedures for recording accidents, although the system implemented to ensure that parents are informed requires some further attention. In addition, the setting has robust procedures in place to inform the regulator of any significant events that occur within the setting. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection, the setting has improved systems for recording accidents and medication. Positive steps have also been taken to provide a detailed policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious. As a result, the risk of transferable infections has been reduced. In addition, the organisation of the setting has improved because children now have access to a quiet area where they are able to 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 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):

- assess the risks in relation to the external door adjacent to the toilet block and take action to minimise these
- ensure that the range of activities addresses are organised to provide a rich experience for all children
- ensure that all accident records are monitored and implement a system to ensure that parents are always notified
- ensure that the care of the older children does not have an adverse effect on the care of the younger children.

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