



## **Lorton After School Club**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY320592
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sandra Elizabeth Williams
<b>Setting Address</b>	Lorton School, High Lorton, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9UL
<b>Telephone number</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Lorton After School Club
<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?**

Lorton After School Club was registered in June 2006 and operates from Lorton School in Lorton, near Cockermouth, Cumbria. The children have use of the pavilion, year 3 and 4 classroom and toilet facilities. All children share access to an outdoor play area.

The group serves children from Lorton and the surrounding area. A maximum of 16 children aged from four to eight years may attend the club at any one time. Older children may also attend the club. There are currently 14 children from five to 10 years who attend regularly.

The club is open Monday to Friday from 15.00 until 17.00 during school term-times only. The setting supports children with learning difficulties. There are two full-time members of staff who work with the children. The play leader holds appropriate early years qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about being healthy and practise good hygiene routines as they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times, for example, after using the toilet and before eating and baking. Children are protected from the risk of cross-infection as the staff have a sick-child policy, which prevents children from attending if they have contagious illnesses. The children's health needs are well catered for because the staff have undertaken first aid training and have first aid kits available. Documentation for recording medication and accidents are available and all entries are countersigned by parents.

The children have regular opportunities to enjoy physical exercise and fresh air, as they have access to the extensive playground. They enjoy climbing and balancing on the wooden climbing apparatus. They also enjoy playing ball games, such as tennis and cricket, which help them to develop their hand to eye coordination. The children also develop their gardening knowledge and skills by digging and planting in the raised flower beds within the school grounds.

Children are learning about healthy eating as they are provided with a choice of healthy snacks, such as fruit, salad and cheese. They help to prepare the food, by carefully cutting up the cucumber and cheese. They enjoy cooking activities, such as making fruit salads and smoothies. Children with special dietary requirements are well catered for and staff are knowledgeable about children's individual needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are looked after in a safe and generally secure environment. Satisfactory safety procedures are followed and risk assessments are in place to identify and resolve most hazards. However, the level of security is not robust. Insufficient care is taken by adults using the shared building to ensure that it is secure during the out of school sessions. The staff running the out of school club, however, do ensure that the children receive adequate supervision, thus helping them to stay safe and secure. Children are also developing a good knowledge of keeping themselves safe by understanding that they must not leave the classroom unaccompanied by an adult. The children are also learning about fire safety as they regularly practise the emergency evacuation procedure with the staff.

The children are relaxed, happy and move freely around the room, self selecting toys and play equipment that is safely arranged in a way that makes it easily accessible to them. Staff encourage children to be independent and choose what they would like to play with. Children's welfare is further safeguarded through the staff's sound knowledge of the local child protection procedures. The staff have undertaken training in the past and have a general awareness of what to do if they have concerns about the children's safety.

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

The provision is good.

The children have good, trusting relationships with the staff and settle confidently with them. Their self-esteem is highly promoted through much praise for their achievements. Children enjoy being at the club and play well with their friends from school. Children enjoy and achieve due to the interesting range of imaginative and inspiring activities available to them. The children are consulted about what activities they would like to undertake and the staff take their requests seriously. The children have opportunities to express their creativity in many different ways. They take part in drama and music sessions that are presented by local companies. They enjoy junk modelling and make their own little dolls houses, using boxes and different types of materials. They make pots and plant tulip bulbs in them for special occasions. They also create very attractive marbling paintings that are displayed in the reception area of the school. Children are confident to play in small groups, in pairs and independently. They are absorbed in their tasks. Some enjoy playing on the computers, whilst others enjoy construction toys and role play. All of these activities help children to make good progress in their learning and development.

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

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and play a full part in the club because staff value and respect their individuality. They are encouraged to develop positive attitudes about a diverse society through the activities provided by the staff, such as celebrating Chinese New Year. They enjoy making their own noodles with a pasta-making machine and they develop their fine motor skills as they eat the noodles with chopsticks. They also enjoy learning about different cultures and languages, such as French. Children learn about their own community by taking part in music and drama sessions organised by local companies. They also visit local schools to join other children to perform dramas.

Children with learning difficulties are welcome to join the club. Staff are very aware of the need to work well with each other, as well as with parents and other professionals, to maximise the support to these children. The children are encouraged to support each other and be inclusive towards each other. For example, for some activities such as baking, the children work in pairs. The older children help the younger children, which develops their understanding of others. Positive behaviour is constantly encouraged by the use of praise and encouragement. The children learn right from wrong due to the staff's fair approach and the children are clear about what is expected of them.

Children benefit from the very positive partnership the staff have with the parents. The staff work very closely with the parents, sharing information on a daily basis to ensure that the children's individual needs are recognised and their welfare is promoted. Parents receive regular information about forthcoming events via newsletters and information leaflets. Staff are very approachable and friendly. The staff have a complaints policy, however, it has not yet been reviewed in line with recent legislation.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are able to take an active part in the setting, which is well supervised by the staff to promote the children's enjoyment and achievements. They are relaxed and confident in the environment, with their individual care further supported by the staff being well qualified and experienced. There are effective recruitment procedures to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Staff plan an interesting range of activities so that the children enjoy varied play in a busy, friendly atmosphere.

Staff organise space and resources very well so that children can move about and access equipment easily. Children's needs are known and recorded through thorough systems. Required records are in place, however, the complaints policy has not yet been updated. Policies are available to parents and are carefully stored confidentially in a cupboard. Children's good quality of care is further reflected in the positive feedback from parents who appreciate the friendly, reliable childcare provision.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration 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 records 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):

- review the risk assessment to include a thorough procedure for ensuring that the premises are secure and that children can not leave them unsupervised

- review the complaints policy and procedure to ensure that it complies with the addendum to the National Standards October 2005.

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)