



## Avenue and Park Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY334474
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Anne Archer
<b>Setting Address</b>	The Avenue Infant School, The Avenue, WELLINGBOROUGH, Northamptonshire, NN8 4ET
<b>Telephone number</b>	01933 277400
<b>E-mail</b>	victoria_centre@btconnect.com
<b>Registered person</b>	Victoria Centre
<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?

Avenue and Park after-school club registered in 2006 and is managed by the Victoria Centre in Wellingborough. It operates from the Avenue School in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. The club accepts children who attend either Park or Avenue School. A maximum of 24 children under 8 years may attend the club at any one time. Children over the age of 8 also attend the club. The club opens between 15.10 and 18.00, five days a week during term time only. The club has the use of the large hall and two other classes if required. Toilets are accessible to all areas. The children also have access to a large outdoor area containing a good range of equipment.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children show understanding of the importance of being appropriately dressed for outdoor play. They develop physical skills as they use the playground apparatus, particularly the climbing equipment, outdoor play is very popular and children also enjoy ball games. Children do not acknowledge the importance of good personal hygiene practices such as washing their hands before eating a piece of fruit or before sitting down to eat their snack and staff do not remind them or discuss the subject with them. Children's welfare is safeguarded because there is a member of staff who holds a current first aid certificate showing that she has attended training and feels confident to administer treatment in the event of an accident. There are appropriate procedures to notify parents and make children comfortable if they become unwell.

Children have an awareness of the importance eating fruit has on their health and are able to choose a piece from a bowl at any time. The weekly snack menu is displayed from Tuesday of each week and children are provided with a range of cold snacks such as yogurt, taking into account their individual dietary needs. Children choose from milk or squash to drink with their snack and can have a drink of water at any time.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and secure environment where risk of injury is minimised by the manager's vigilance and good practices such as risk assessments and fire safety measures to reduce potential accidents. Most children show awareness of the importance of safety and respond to clear guidelines during indoor and outdoor play activities. However, a few older children throw items such as chess pieces, playing cards and spoons across the room and there is a potential risk of injury to a child. Children are able to choose from a varied range of toys and games and these and the furniture and equipment are maintained to ensure children's safety when using them. Children's wellbeing is safeguarded by the manager's awareness of child protection issues and referral arrangements and by staff's understanding of their responsibilities for the welfare of the children in their care.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enter the club confidently and are welcomed by name. There is no actual start time to the session as children arrive at various times. Children are able to choose board games from the trolley or wait for activities to be set up by staff such as Brio track and train, writing and drawing materials and a play station twice a week. Children have opportunities to relax and socialise or be active in accordance with their needs and interests. There is a reasonable range of indoor activities available to children and the staff try to ensure that all children can participate by offering them help when needed, such as when children play 'Top Trumps' and 'Simpson's' chess. However, a few older children sometimes spoil these games which affects the enjoyment of the younger children. Most children are confident to offer and share their

ideas and additional resources are readily accessible to them to enable them to extend an activity or to play a different game. Children particularly enjoy outdoor play and use of the school's climbing equipment.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy coming to the club to renew friendships with children they no longer see during the school day because they are in different classes or at different schools. Children's understanding of the diverse society in which we live is supported through books, resources and discussion. Strategies are being developed by staff to support children with learning difficulties to ensure they enjoy the facilities at the club.

The club has a clear statement on behaviour management which is shared with parents. On the whole children's behaviour is satisfactory. Although staff effectively manage children on a one to one basis, their management of small and larger groups of children is less effective and may affect the enjoyment of younger children.

Working relationships between parents and staff are still developing. Information obtained from the registration form is used to help settle children into the club. Parents receive a welcome letter and the noticeboard at the entrance hall, provides them with information about snacks, activities and club policies and procedures, although the latter were not on display on the day of inspection. Arrangements are made with parents about the arrival and departure of children to and from the club, taking account of the children's best interests. Written consents are obtained to ensure that children are only released from the club to individuals named by the parent. A member of staff speaks to each parent as they collect their child to ensure a two way exchange of information about anything that may affect the care of their child.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff continue to develop a routine for setting up the club activities and there are occasions when younger children arrive before staff are ready for them. However, staff are welcoming and children are able to choose something to do from the games trolley. Once activities are set up, space is used well to enable children to initiate and develop their play and supervisory systems are in place to enable children to play outside on the climbing apparatus. However, at times staff appear unsure of their role and responsibilities and some behaviour issues stated elsewhere in this report are not dealt with.

Two of the three staff working at the club hold play work qualifications. However, the level three qualification standard in relation to the manager is not met. This inexperience impacts on children when staff duties are not delegated appropriately. Most record keeping is maintained as required ensuring that children's welfare is safeguarded in relation to accident, incident and medication recording. However, the daily register does not include times of arrival and departure for either children or staff. The registered person takes responsibility for recruitment and staff

vetting procedures. She visits the club on a weekly basis although she is contactable by phone at any time should staff require advice or support. Overall, children's needs are met.

### **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 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):

- ensure that staff make children aware of the importance of good hygiene practice in relation to hand washing to prevent the spread of infection, especially at snack time
- ensure that the care and enjoyment of children under eight is not adversely affected by the care of children over eight
- ensure the system for registering children and staff attendance show times of arrival and departure
- draw up an action plan, including time scales, detailing when there will be a manager in post with at least a level three qualification

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)