

Light Oaks Before and After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY278382
Inspection date	15 March 2007
Inspector	Glynis Margaret Kite
Setting Address	Light Oaks Infant School, Lancaster Road, Salford, Lancashire, M6 8LU
Telephone number	0161 788 8099
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Registered person	Light Oaks Before and After School Club
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?

Light Oaks Before and After School Club opened in January 2004. It operates from Light Oaks Infant School in Salford. The setting caters for children who attend the school. Children have access to the hall, canteen, the library area and bathroom facilities. The nursery and year one classroom are also registered for occasional use. The hall is used to accommodate children aged three to seven years and the canteen is used to accommodate older children. There is a large enclosed area available for outdoor play.

The before school club opens Monday to Friday from 08.00 until 08.55 during term time. The after school club opens Monday to Friday from 15.30 until 17.30 during term time. There is 100 children on roll, children attend a variety of sessions.

Nine staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to Level 3. The setting receives support from Sure Start. The setting has achieved the Aiming High quality assurance scheme award. Staff are committed to attending training to further develop their practice.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and well-being is promoted to satisfactory standards. Staff provide children with a variety of snacks in both the before and after school sessions, which are balanced and healthy. However, children are not involved in the preparations or serving of the snacks or drinks. Fresh drinking water is available for children to access at any time, thus keeping them hydrated. Children also benefit from the provision of fresh fruit with their snack. Children are well supported because staff sit with them during snack time and engage in general conversations about the children's day or what they will be doing after their snack.

Children are learning about good hygiene through the daily routine of the setting, such as washing hands before eating. Staff supervise children to ensure they do this properly. Policies and procedures are also in place to protect children from the spread of infection, for example, there is a written exclusion policy for sick children and procedures to deal with children who become ill whilst attending the setting. Staff keep appropriate records of all accidents and share these with parents, ensuring that the welfare of children is maintained.

Children have access to large outdoor play spaces when the weather permits. They have opportunities to run, play football and play games in both large and small groups. For those children who wish to rest and relax there are quiet areas within the main room, such as the television area.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment which is warm and welcoming. Staff greet all of the children as they arrive at the start the session in a calm and relaxed manner by sitting with the children to register their attendance. Children have access to a wide range of toys and play equipment which is appropriate to their ages, is safe and is in good condition. Children enjoy freedom of movement in which to play and select toys and activities of their choice. The available space is used well, ensuring children have access to a variety of toys and activities.

Children are kept safe on the premises because there is an effective system in place for monitoring access and visitors to the premises. However, systems for managing routine risk assessments and those required to meet the needs of individuals are not implemented effectively or consistently. In addition, the procedures for practising fire evacuation drills are not kept on site and therefore may put children at risk.

Children are protected from harm because the staff know and understand the policy and procedures regarding child protection. Some staff have attended relevant child protection training. The policy is shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy coming to the club, they are happy, settled and confident. Toys and equipment are planned for the children and set out before they arrive. Children are encouraged to select

their own activities, thus encouraging independence and choice. Planning includes creative activities based on current themes and topics, such as Mother's day.

Children interact well with each other and the adults. Staff support children well by participating in the games and play with them. This helps to keep children focused and interested. The staff ensure there is something suitable for all of the children present. The children benefit from a calm and relaxing environment, which enables them to have fun and enjoy the activities.

Staff listen to what children have to say and engage with them in conversation. Children receive lots of praise from staff as a reward for their efforts and achievements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are greeted and welcomed in to the club by staff; they are treated with equal concern and respect and are recognised as individuals. Children benefit from having a range of resources which promote diversity and positive images. While staff meet the individual needs of children there is no records of assessments carried out for children. Good systems are in place to help new children to settle into the club and a buddy system is in place to support younger children.

Parents have access to the policies and procedures for the setting and verbally exchange information with staff as necessary. However, the procedures for managing complaints have not been updated in line with the National Standards. Children benefit from the friendly working relationships established between staff and their parents. Staff keep appropriate records for all children and confidentiality is maintained.

A written policy is in place to help staff manage children's behaviour appropriately. This includes strategies such as early intervention, verbal warnings and time out. Children are engaged in purposeful activities which keeps them engaged and stimulated and as a result children behave well.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Appropriate procedures are in place to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Staff are committed to their role in caring for children and attend additional training on a regular basis. The staff know and understand their roles and responsibilities with regard to daily routines, this ensures children are supervised well and their needs are met consistently.

The staff use the space effectively to ensure children are safe and have access to the full range of activities offered. Ratios are maintained to ensure children receive appropriate care and attention from staff. Required records and documentation is in place and available for inspection, however, attendance registers for children are not maintained effectively to ensure all children are signed out by their parents and staff are not included on the attendance registers.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the provider has provided books, small world toys and dolls, which promote positive images of disability, this action has helped to raise awareness of disability in a positive way.

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 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 systems and procedures for practising and recording emergency fire evacuation drills are kept on the premises and improve systems for routine risk assessments. For example, make sure that records are up to date and available for inspection and the system is clear
- make sure all records and documentation are organised in such a way as to make them available for inspection
- encourage children to participate in the preparations and serving of snacks to support developing independence and responsibility
- update the complaints policy to take account of changes to the requirements in the National Standards
- ensure attendance registers for children are maintained appropriately and include staff.

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