



Phoenix Fun Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	314146
Inspection date	14 March 2007
Inspector	Lynne Pope
Setting Address	Whickham Street, Easington Colliery, Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 3DJ
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Registered person	Management Committee of Phoenix Fun 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?

Phoenix Fun Club is run by a committee. It opened in 1999 and operates from two rooms within school premises. It is situated in Easington Colliery. A maximum of 40 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open from 07.30 until 09.00 and from 15.00 until 18.00 during school term time. It is open from 07.30 until 18.00 in school holidays.

There are currently 90 children aged from three years to eight years on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area. The club supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs four staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and spacious environment. All staff hold a first aid certificate, ensuring the physical safety of children. Children show an awareness of good hygiene practices as they wash their hands before snack and meals. They are kept safe from the spread of infection through the sickness policy being shared with parents. Records are in place for the administration of medication and recording accidents. However, the date is not recorded consistently on the accident records to identify when the accident occurred. Children enthusiastically take an active part in physical exercise, learning about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle. They are able to choose when they would like to take part in physical activity in the adjacent hall where they practise with bats and balls and enjoy the social experience of team games. They are able to rest or be active as they need.

Children's wellbeing is enhanced as they access a well balanced, healthy diet. Meals are freshly prepared on the premises by staff who ensure that healthy options are available for breakfast and snack time. Various options are offered at mealtimes and children are consulted about what they would like. They take particular pride in being able to prepare part of the meals. For example, they make jelly at the previous session and share at tea time the following day. Close links have been formed with the local health care trust who visit regularly in school holidays. They work with the children covering healthy eating topics and give the children opportunities to prepare healthy meals.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a well organised environment. The indoor space is organised effectively, enabling children to explore and take risks while being supervised. They have freedom of movement between the halls which helps to develop their independence. During school holidays, they freely access a fully enclosed outdoor area. A broad range of resources are set out prior to children's arrival, enabling children to develop their independence further as they make their selections.

Satisfactory processes are in place to keep children safe. Staff carry out a risk assessment of the premises prior to children's arrival to ensure that there are no hazards. They monitor the door into the hall visually to ensure that no unwanted visitors enter the club and maintain a visitors record. Outings procedures safeguard children. A risk assessment is carried out of the proposed venue and parental consent is gained. Arrangements with a local taxi firm ensure that children are picked up safely from other schools by a member of staff. Most required health and safety procedures are in place. Staff explain what procedure they would follow in the event of a child not being collected at the end of the session. However, there is no written policy in place to support the practice. This is a requirement of registration.

Staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of the child protection policies and procedures that protect children from harm. They are able to access training to keep their knowledge

updated. The written child protection policy is shared with parents. The manager is aware of what procedures would be followed if an allegation was made against a member of staff. However, the procedure is not included in the written policy. This is a requirement if registration.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children experience a varied range of planned activities and spontaneous events, which contribute to their development inside and outside the provision. Staff provide a calm, consistent environment where children are happy and settled. They enthusiastically make their own choices about what they would like to do. For example, taking part in craft activities or using the electronic games. They spend concentrated time and effort on their activities as they thread beads or make fridge magnets. Good levels of self-esteem and confidence are gained as they receive consistent support from staff. Staff join in with children's play, interacting well where needed. They encourage children to become independent by providing an environment which helps them to make choices. Flexible activity plans are in place based on what the child chooses to do. Most children that attend also attend the school. This helps them to settle well in the familiar environment. Settling in visits are offered to children that attend from other schools.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children become aware of a wider society as they make trips out into the local environment and further afield during school holidays. For example, they visit the beach, local outdoor museums, the forest or the fun fair. Visitors are invited into the setting, such as a company that brings in different zoo animals for children to learn about. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are able to participate fully. Close liaisons are formed with the school that the child attends from, enabling staff to be fully aware of the child's needs. Staff are calm and consistent in their approach to behaviour management. They use timely interventions where they use distraction or clear instruction which protects the child. Positive behaviour is encouraged through use of praise. Children are well behaved and settled in the provision. They cooperate well together as they share activities. For example, they take turns using the electronic games or share construction resources as they make models.

Partnership with parents is good. Children benefit from a two-way sharing of information between staff and parents which enhances their time at the provision. They are kept regularly updated on their child's progress and the provision through daily discussions. They have access to a copy of the club's policies and procedures. Parents are invited to be involved in the running of the club by attending the committee meetings.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. Staff that work in the provision are committed and enthusiastic about the care of the children, ensuring that children's time is fulfilling and productive. All staff have worked there since it

first opened. The manager is clear about what procedures would be followed to recruit new staff. However, there is no secure recruitment policy in place to reflect how new staff would be recruited. Secure procedures for vetting and recruitment of staff are a requirement of registration. The premises are organised well, allowing children to select their own resources and take part safely. A good balance of indoor and outdoor play extends children learning and gives regard to the wellbeing of all children. A record is maintained of children's attendance, however, the times are not consistently recorded to confirm that staff-child ratios are maintained.

Most required policies and procedures are in place which supports the care of the children. However, there are no written procedures in place to reflect what would happen if a child was uncollected or an allegation was made against a member of staff. These are requirements of registration. Close links are fostered with the school which has a positive impact for the continuity of care for children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, recommendations were raised to ensure that procedures were developed regarding completion of medication records and to ensure that bullying procedures are addressed in policies.

New forms have been developed for the consent and recording of medication which protects children's health. A bullying policy has been put in place enabling staff to be aware of what to do should the situation arise.

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 that records of children's accidents include the date of the accident

- ensure that the record of children's attendance is consistently maintained with the times of children's arrival and departure
- ensure that the child protection policy includes a procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer
- ensure that there is a procedure to be followed in the event of a child not being collected
- develop a secure procedure that reflects practise that would be followed in the event of recruiting new members of 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