

Ashover School Child Care (Ashover Out Of School Club)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	207212
Inspection date	22 March 2007
Inspector	Jean Otter
Setting Address	Ashover Primary School, Narrowleys Lane, Ashover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S45 0AH
Telephone number	01246 591105
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Registered person	Ashover School Child Care
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Ashover School Childcare opened in 1995 and is run by a management committee. It operates from Ashover Primary School nursery room, pavilion room and a porta-cabin within the school grounds. A maximum of 80 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday during term time from 15:30 to 18:00. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 94 children from four to under eight years on roll. Children come from the local area.

The club employs eight members of staff to work with the under eights. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The environment is homely and comfortable. Acceptable levels of cleanliness and suitable hygiene procedures ensure children's health within the setting is fully supported, for example the cleaning and checking of the bathroom area, which is well-organised. Children are independent in self-care skills and are reminded by staff to wash their hands appropriately. There are good opportunities for the children to participate in active play, both inside and outdoors, which encourages their physical development.

Children understand the importance of a nutritious diet. The snack menu has been revised recently to consist only of snacks that are healthy. Children were involved in this revision during a project and this involvement has gained their interest in, and acceptance of, the new menu. The new menu is displayed on the notice board for the interest of parents. Children take part in cooking activities which encourages a positive interest in food, and knowledge of food preparation. All snacks comply with special dietary requirements.

Medicines are not normally administered because of the nature of the setting, however correct procedures are in place should this be required. The appropriate and confidential recording of accidents and incidents ensures parents are duly informed if their child has an accident. Staff are aware of the procedures to follow when children are sick, ensuring that others are protected from illness and infection. All staff hold valid first aid certificates and a fully stocked first aid box is easily accessible. Written parental consent is obtained to seek emergency medical advice or treatment ensuring children are well cared for in a medical emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a good range of safety measures within the setting. They are reminded of sensible behaviour and understand that safety and care routines including practising safe evacuation procedures keep them safe. Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff are extremely vigilant and use daily safety checks on the premises, outdoor area and equipment to reduce potential hazards. Effective security measures ensure children do not leave the premises unsupervised. Staff have a good understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits for children in their care. A suitable health and safety policy is in place which is understood by the staff team and ensures children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. Procedures are in place for if a child is lost or uncollected. The lost child procedures however, only relate to the time the children transfer between school and the after school premises and do not cover the remaining period of time until the children go home.

The premises are suitable for their use and the extensive space is well-organised to provide children with a welcoming and stimulating environment which helps them to feel secure and comfortable. Equipment is safe, hygienic and appropriate to the children's age and stage of development.

Children are well protected because staff are vigilant and have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the protection of children. The child protection policy has been updated to reflect the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the procedures to follow if an allegation is made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the time spent at the club. Play areas are well thought out giving children space to move around freely and be active or rest according to their needs and interests. Children approach staff with confidence and their needs are met well. They develop independence as they choose between a variety of toys and resources which appeal to all. Focused activity plans are in place and are used effectively to ensure children consistently enjoy a topic and creative element. Children have made sweet necklaces, photo frames and spring frogs for example. Staff have worked hard to develop this area of interest for the children and all are involved in the discussion relating to future topics. Imaginative and general creative play is particularly good, with a wide range of supplementary resources available. This ensures children can develop their work and ideas fully. Staff are perceptive to children's interests during self-initiated play and use good communication to challenge their thinking and to develop their creative and social skills. Children are confident to try new experiences and enjoy many activities where they can work together as a group. Children are friendly, motivated, and they are fully engaged in their play as they select and carry out activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The individual needs of all the children who attend the setting are met well and arrangements are in place to care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Activities and resources that support the children's understanding of the wider society are satisfactory.

Children behave well. They share their toys and play together harmoniously, developing a positive attitude to others. They are polite and helpful and understand the rules and boundaries which are applied consistently by staff. The methods used to manage behaviour are appropriate for the ages of the children and include constructive explanation of why the behaviour is unacceptable. Staff are calm, talk quietly to the children at a level they understand and use meaningful praise and encouragement as part of the behaviour strategy.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. Effective information is obtained about children's health, likes and dislikes prior to them joining the setting. Methods which support continuity of care are in place as the worker and parents share information about the child on a daily basis. Parents are encouraged to become involved in the day to day activities of the setting, for example by bringing in resource items or supporting the children with netball and table tennis. A parents brochure is available and policies are displayed on the notice board in the entrance hall which supports their understanding of how the setting operates. An appropriate complaints procedure is in place and parents' written permission is sought for all activities where it is necessary.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff deployment and improved organisation contribute to children's good health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to take an active part in the setting. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities and encourage children's independence and self-selection. The range and quality of activities and resources is good and as a consequence children are well-occupied and their learning and developmental needs are met. Safety and

care routines within the setting, including staff rota systems ensure all staff are aware of what is happening overall, thus providing security and comfort for the children. All the required documentation which contributes to the children's well-being is in place and the required policies and procedures are available which supports the smooth running of the setting and provides information to parents about how the setting operates. Staff are committed to making sure they continue to organise their documents appropriately and to keep abreast of new requirements. Effective recruitment procedures are in place which ensures staff are suitably vetted, keeping children safe. Staffing qualification requirements are met which means that children are cared for by persons with appropriate knowledge and experience of childcare. An induction programme is in place for the development of new staff and all staff are trained in first aid which helps to safeguard the welfare of the children. Overall the setting meets the needs of all children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was issued with a notice of action to improve and three actions were set. To ensure good hygiene is consistently promoted during the session. To ensure accident records are signed by parents and to ensure that staff clearly understand all of the policies and procedures; that the child protection policy includes the procedure for allegations against a member of staff; that the complaints procedure is shared with parents and that there is a written statement for behaviour management which is shared with parents. All actions have been met. The caretaker now cleans the bathroom between sessions and additionally the staff make regular and recorded checks during the session to ensure the area is hygienic for the children. Arrangements are being introduced to ensure the carpet is cleaned during the session and is also hygienic for the children. The children's bathroom routine ensures their personal hygiene is not compromised. All recordings in the accident book contains records that have been signed by parents ensuring that information regarding children's health is shared. Policies and procedures have been reviewed and the organisation of the documents is much improved, this ensures staff can find documents and the policies contain current information that the staff understand. The child protection policy includes the procedure for if an allegation is made against a member of staff and a written behaviour management policy is displayed on the parents notice board. The complaints procedure is also displayed for parents.

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 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):

- extend the lost child policy to include procedures for the whole session

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