

The 3.30 Fun Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	309705
Inspection date	27 March 2007
Inspector	Denise Sixsmith
Setting Address	St Johns CE primary school, Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L40 4AE
Telephone number	07773 012 545
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Registered person	The 3.30 Fun Club Committee
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The 3.30 Fun Club opened in 1997. It is run by a committee and operates from the main hall in a church hall building situated within the grounds of St Johns CE Primary School in Burscough. The club serves the school community. A maximum of 26 children from three to eight years may attend the group at any one time. The group opens five days a week during school term times from 08.00 until 09.00 and 15.30 until 17.30. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor area.

There are currently 33 children from three to under eight years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The committee employs three staff plus additional support staff as required. Of these one holds appropriate early years qualifications. The group is a member of 4Kids.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff offer appropriate support and guidance, this helps children to gain an understanding of hygiene routines and to continue to become increasingly independent in personal care. Children know that washing hands helps to prevent the spread of germs. They are escorted, before snack, to wash their hands and follow routine hand washing procedures. Staff protect children's health by taking appropriate steps to minimise the spread of infection and ensure that children play in a clean environment. In the event of an injury, there are two persons identified with up to date first aid training. However, not all contents of the first aid box are in date and the accident book does not ensure confidentiality is maintained. A sick child policy is in place and information regarding children's needs is in place, ensuring continuity of care between staff and parents. Children's individual needs are taken into account to ensure that they remain healthy.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their good health. Each day there are both indoor and outdoor activities to help children learn the importance of physical activity in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Children enjoy the fresh air as they play outside on the large field where they run, skip and engage in a variety of team games with their friends and staff.

Children look forward to their snacks and make their snack choices at the start of the session; these include a variety of toppings for toast and choice of fruit drinks or water. Children are encouraged by staff to think about healthy eating and have sliced fruit as a part of their snack. They were observed to ask for and receive drinks during the session. Two children who arrived at the group not feeling very well were provided with drinks and encouraged to sit quietly until they felt better and able to join in the activities. Children sit together in small groups at the snack table and develop social skills as they chat about their day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a setting where a risk assessment is in place and staff identify and minimise potential risks daily. This means that children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Children are very aware of safety in the use of the equipment and of the club rules with regards to staying safe. They can clearly list the safety rules for outside play which include staying within sight of staff, staying away from the trees and the horses and using the large sit and bounce balls on the grass. This helps children learn to take responsibility for their own actions and the safety of others. Safe collection procedures ensure children leave with a known adult. Parents and carers sign and record the time when collecting children.

Children are cared for in a clean, safe building that has easy access to a large playing field. They access a variety of safe and age-appropriate toys and equipment. Children are asked what toys and activities they want out at the start of the session and request additional toys or favourites throughout the session from the walk-in store. Toys include physical equipment, games, craft activities and the use of computer games.

Staff have a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues, which is supported through attendance at child protection awareness training. They are aware of their responsibilities in ensuring the safety and welfare of the children in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are happy and are made welcome by the staff. The younger children engage in a walking game between their collection point in the school and the club. Staff are interested in the children and interaction is positive and supportive. Communication between the children is positive, especially at snack time, and they respond to staff well. The children enjoy their creative play and are eager to inform the inspector of the various cards they have made during the term, including Valentines and Mothers Day cards. Staff plan the creative activities in advance for the children, for example in the last week of term they plan to make Easter baskets from dough.

The children play very well together either in pairs or groups in particular in the outdoor activities. Some children enjoy the football and badminton games with the members of staff. Others set up the croquet hoops and play happily in pairs. A small group decide that they wish to colour stickers quietly in the hall. Children are keen to show staff what they have made and engage them in their play. Staff in turn acknowledge their achievements, resulting in children's raised levels of confidence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are warmly welcomed into the setting and good relationships are formed between children and staff. All children are valued and children's individual details are shared with parents at the start of their placement in the group. Staff take positive steps to promote the welfare of all the children attending. They ensure that some resources positively represent individuals from the wider community, and a variety of festivals are celebrated to enhance the children's knowledge of the wider world. An equal opportunity statement is in place in the policy folder.

Staff lead by example, emphasising the importance of being kind, friendly and respectful towards one another. Children know and understand the rules which are consistently applied by staff to promote positive behaviour. They help to tidy away equipment and use good manners at snack time. Children play harmoniously together and negotiate appropriately with each other, for example, when setting out the croquet set. They are well-behaved, polite, take turns and show concern for others.

Parents are warmly welcomed and chat to staff when they collect their child. Parents spoken with are happy and supportive of the service that they and their children receive. Parents believe that the interactions of the children at the group have a positive effect for relationships which extend into school and enhance children's confidence. Staff have conducted a questionnaire with both children and parents to gain feedback regarding the group and obtain suggestions to enhance the service.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

All children are settled and relaxed and staff work well together as a team to provide a caring, environment for them. There is adequate space both indoors and outdoors for the children to engage in play opportunities. Children's individual needs are shared with parents to ensure these are met while they attend the group and a record of attendance is maintained. However,

parental permission for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment has not been obtained for all children.

Staffing ratios are maintained well although qualification requirements are not currently met. The setting has met this requirement at times since the previous inspection and steps are now in place to address this issue. A policy and procedures file is in place and available to parents, however, some of the documented policies and procedures have not been fully updated to reflect practice and regulatory changes, for example, the complaints policy and implementation of a complaints record, the updating of members of the committee and their responsibilities and the child protection procedure, including reference to the Local Safeguarding Children Board. In some instances the policies refer to practice in the school rather than the club. Consequently, they are not used to effectively manage the setting and accurately inform parents. In addition, Ofsted has not been informed of significant changes, for example, the changes to persons of the committee and submission of their details to ensure that required vetting procedure are completed. These are a breach of mandatory requirements of legislation. Therefore, overall the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection an action was set that proof would be provided that at least half of the staff hold a Level two qualification in child care, or an action plan be developed and implemented detailing how this would be achieved. During the time since the last inspection this has been put in place and achieved, however, this is not currently the case because appropriately qualified staff have been employed and then moved to other jobs. Steps have now been put in place to ensure that this requirement is met.

Recommendations made at the last inspection regarding the implementation of a system to record incidents, staff induction training, the elimination of tripping hazards and the checking of electrical equipment have been followed to improve the health and safety of the children. The consent for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment cannot be evidenced although the group are sure that they included this in new forms. This has been raised again at this inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that Ofsted is informed of any changes to the committee
- ensure that all members of the committee have submitted to checks prescribed in regulations
- ensure that policies and procedures are updated in line with regulations, reflect current practice and parental consent is obtained for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment whilst confidentiality is maintained in the accident record.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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