

# Parklands Learning and Care Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY280087
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Kristin Hatherly
<b>Setting Address</b>	Parklands Primary School, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton, NN3 6DW
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<b>Registered person</b>	Parklands Learning and Care 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Parklands Learning and Care Centre has been registered since April 2002. The club operates from a mobile in the grounds of Parklands Primary School in Northampton and caters for children between the ages of three and eight years who attend Parklands Primary School.

The Centre is registered for 32 children and currently has 95 children on roll. It is open Monday to Friday 7:00 to 8:40 and 15.30 to 18:00 during term time. There is a holiday playscheme which operates during all school holidays between 8:00 and 18:00, and children come from the surrounding area..

There are of total of seven staff who work directly with the children. Two hold appropriate childcare qualifications and one is working towards an appropriate qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children have regular access to both an outdoor play area and the school playground where they benefit from fresh air and exercise. They play team games such as football where they develop their large muscles and co-ordination.

Children gain an awareness of the role of healthy eating in developing their good health and growth as they are provided with a variety of nutritious well-balanced snacks and are involved in planning the snack menu. Children have access to fresh drinking water at all times. As a result children are thoroughly hydrated and comfortable.

Generally children are developing good hygiene practice. They wash their hands after visiting the toilet, although on the day of inspection, they did not wash their hands before their snack. Children receive appropriate care in the event of minor accidents or illness because sufficient staff hold an up to date first aid qualification and there is a first aid kit readily accessible. Effective measures are in place to ensure the health of children who have special dietary or medical needs is not compromised. Information is obtained from parents and shared with staff in order that children receive appropriate care.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in clean and well-maintained premises where their safety is promoted well. Space and resources are organised to allow children to move around comfortably and participate in a wide range of activities. Children choose what to play with from a wide range of good quality toys and interesting activities that meets their play and development needs well. Suitable measures are in place to ensure children are safe and to prevent accidents. Children are well supervised both in and outside because sufficient staff are deployed effectively. Fire drills are practised regularly and recorded appropriately.

Children are protected from harm or neglect because staff have satisfactory knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse, and the correct procedure to follow if they are concerned about a child. Children are further kept safe as there are clear procedures for outings. They are protected and their welfare promoted through regular risk assessments of equipment and premises. The required procedures and documents are in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the out-of-school club. They participate in a wide range of stimulating games and activities that meet their social, emotional, intellectual and physical needs well. They are encouraged to be involved in the planning of activities which builds their self-esteem. Children express themselves creatively as they engage in craft activities using a range of media such as glue, paint and collage material. They share and take turns appropriately, for example, as they use the various games consoles. Children's need for active or quiet play are well catered for. The rooms are organised to allow them to play quietly or engage in more active play both inside and outdoors.

Children benefit from warm, friendly interaction with staff who know them well and spend most of their time playing with and talking to the children. Children are valued by staff who show interest in their games and activities and interact with the children very well.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy activities and resources which promote a positive view of the wider world. They celebrate a variety of festivals and have access to resources such as dressing up, crayons and paints in flesh tones and a variety of books including dual language books which show people from other cultures. This increases their awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. They are valued and respected as individuals and are fully included in the life of the setting. The club understands their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act and is pro-active in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken to support children with identified needs. As a result children receive appropriate support.

Children know what is expected of them and respond well to staff. They enjoy warm interaction with staff who play with them, have good opportunities to make choices and receive regular praise and support. As a result, children are well behaved.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. Children benefit from the effective partnership between parents and staff which includes parents being involved in the committee. Information is obtained from parents that helps staff provide appropriate care and they in turn are provided with a variety of information on the parents' notice board and regular feedback about the children. However, there is no complaints log and the address and telephone number for the regulating authority on the parents' notice board is incorrect. Parents report positively about the club.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the effective organisation of the space and resources both indoors and in the outdoor area so that they can make choices and develop their ideas as they play. Children's welfare, care and safety are promoted because staff have undergone appropriate vetting procedures to ensure they are suitable to work with children. Furniture, space and resources are organised to allow children to participate comfortably in active or quiet play. The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. Resources and equipment are organised to promote children's safety, welfare and development. Staff continue to update their training to improve and develop their work with the children. The quality of care is enhanced because staff attend further training.

Generally, records, policies and procedures required for the safe and efficient management of the club are well maintained and therefore promote the children's welfare. Staff and children's attendance is recorded daily, consents for outings and emergency medical treatment or advice is obtained. Overall the needs of the children are met.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the club was asked to ensure that parents have easy access to the address and telephone number of Ofsted, this is now on the parents' notice board, although the address and telephone number has changed and this has not been amended on the notice board. They

were also asked to ensure that the registration system included hours of attendance of staff and procedures were in place in the event of a parent failing to collect a child. The register now includes the arrival and departure times of staff and there is a clear procedure in place in the event of a parent failing to collect a child. They were further requested to ensure that the child protection statement includes the procedures in the event of allegations against a member of staff. There are now procedures in the child protection policy in the event of allegations against a member of staff.

### **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):

- ensure that the good health of the children is promoted to prevent the spread of infection through ensuring the hand washing routines are consistent
- ensure the complaints procedure complies with current guidance with regard to the recording of concerns
- ensure that parents have access to the correct address and telephone number of the regulating authority.

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)