

# New Croft OSC

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	221925
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jean Goodrick

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<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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

New Croft OSC operates from the community room at Newnham Croft Primary School in Cambridge. Children have the use of a large group room, hall, toilets, kitchen and enclosed play area. They also have access to outdoor play in the school's playing fields.

The group is registered to care for 40 children at any one time. There are currently 70 children on roll. The club supports children who have English as an additional language and children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club is open from Monday to Friday from 15.00 to 18.00 during term times for children at the school. Children attend for a variety of sessions. It is also open during school holidays from 08.45 to 17.45. The holiday club is also attended by children from the wider area.

There are currently seven staff members working with the children, two of whom have relevant qualifications. Three members of staff are currently on training courses.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy an excellent range of physical activities in the school's extensive playing fields and they have use of the school hall in bad weather. They play ball games, use the good range of climbing equipment and have great fun with the go-karts, skate boards and other trikes and cars. They develop their manipulative skills using a range of tools and materials in art and craft activities. Children have the space to relax and 'chill out' in the quiet area with their friends. This ensures that all children have times to be active and to rest after their day at school.

Children benefit from the staff's excellent understanding of childhood nutrition and they thoroughly enjoy trying out a wide range of food which often reflects the diverse cultural backgrounds of children who attend. Children say enthusiastically that they 'really love the pitta bread and humous' and they try out the guacamole and other dips. Children sometimes make their own snack, helping to cut up vegetables for the vegetable curry and mixing lots of different fruits for the fruit salad. The club has a written food and drink policy available to parents, and staff are committed to providing a wide range of healthy options for the benefit of the children. Children help themselves to drinks of fresh water which are always available so that they remain well hydrated.

Children's good health is promoted and they are protected from cross-infection; they understand the importance of personal hygiene and wash their hands after using the toilet. Staff act as good role models, wiping down surfaces after use and ensuring that all areas used by children are very clean and well maintained. Excellent hygiene procedures are also carried out in the cookery room where children enjoy cookery activities making, for example, sweets for the school fete. Children receive appropriate treatment if they have an accident or need medication. Several staff have current first aid certificates and the very effective organisation of the setting means that there is always a first aider indoors and outside.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health and safety is given an exceptionally high priority by staff. Children are cared for in a safe, well-maintained environment where risks are clearly identified and minimised so that they are able to move around safely and independently, both indoors and outside, under the constant supervision of the staff. Excellent use is made of the walkie-talkie system as children move between different activities such as cookery and outdoor play so that their whereabouts is known. The community room, which is also used by the pre-school, provides a warm welcoming environment with relevant information clearly and attractively displayed. Staff are rigorous in monitoring the arrival and collection of children. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they practise the fire drill, and procedures are clearly displayed. A full daily check of the premises is carried out at the beginning of each session to ensure all areas used by the children are safe. Detailed risk assessments are completed on the premises and activities to ensure that children are not exposed to any dangers.

Children confidently select a superior range of activities and resources, both indoors and outside, which have been very well chosen to support their play and this means they can follow their own interests. Staff respond very helpfully to any requests for resources which are not

immediately available. All resources and equipment are regularly checked by staff to ensure they are in exemplary condition and absolutely safe for children to use.

Children's overall welfare is extremely well promoted by clear procedures and documents that consistently ensure their safety and which are easily accessible to parents. The owner/manager has an excellent understanding of child protection procedures, which are in line with those set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Staff update their knowledge and understanding so that they are extremely confident to act in children's best interests in the event of concerns for their welfare.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the club; they arrive and enter eagerly and are warmly welcomed by the staff. Children chat happily about their day and let off steam in a game of 'tag' before they sit down to their snack. They show great enthusiasm in what they do and enjoy the activities on offer particularly the well-resourced art and craft and cookery. They carefully construct and paint a model landscape showing pride in their achievement and eagerly displaying their artwork for others to admire. Children enjoy the calm atmosphere of the club where they choose to relax in the quiet area playing imaginative games with the Barbie dolls and action figures, constructing with the Lego and building with the noodle sticks. They report to the inspector that they really enjoy all the choices they have at the club. Very effective organisation means that children move freely from playing outside to a cookery activity and to their base in the community room.

Children are supported by caring and responsive staff who have an excellent understanding of children's development. Staff work very well together as a team to support children's play and provide plenty of opportunities for fun and challenge. Staff respond to the children with lively interest and enthusiasm bringing plenty of humour into their conversations. Children enjoy each other's company and play well together, sharing resources and taking turns. Staff plan and resource an excellent variety of age-appropriate activities. They are particularly skilful in allowing children freedom to make their own choices as well as being available to offer support when necessary. This means that children have a very different experience at the club from their time at school.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from the highly effective relationships between the staff and their parents. All policies and procedures are in place to share information with parents and carers and they receive excellent information when their children start at the club. Regular newsletters and an attractive notice board keep them informed about the setting and activities. Parents have regular opportunities to present their views through the use of questionnaires. They speak very highly of the staff and are extremely confident in the care their children receive.

Children and their families receive a warm welcome from staff. Children are valued and respected as individuals. They make choices and take an active part in the organisation of the provision which gives them a good sense of belonging. Staff collect information from parents so they have a clear understanding of individual needs, including cultural needs, and this ensures that children are settled and comfortable. Excellent systems are in place to support children with

learning difficulties and/or disabilities and staff attend relevant training. Cultural and linguistic diversity is celebrated so that children learn to value their differences and similarities.

All children behave very well and demonstrate a clear understanding of what is expected of them. Children contribute to the club rules which are clearly displayed and which include being kind to each other and not shouting indoors. They negotiate for popular resources such as the computer, readily taking turns. Staff understand positive behaviour management, they show children good role models, and are friendly and polite, sharing jokes with children and enjoying their company. Children are lively and exuberant and their energy is expressed constructively in challenging activities.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are kept safe because rigorous recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that adults are suitable and have appropriate skills and knowledge to work with children. The induction procedure and detailed operational plan, with up-to-date information for staff, ensures that all members of the team are secure in their knowledge of their roles and responsibilities. Staff have relevant experience and attend training to improve their play work practice for the benefit of the children. Children's care is enhanced by the good quality organisation; they benefit from a very well prepared environment that promotes positive outcomes for all children and enables them to make decisions and pursue their own interests. Children are happy and confident because staff develop warm and affectionate relationships with them, and they benefit from the care and attention offered by the staff.

Resources and the general environment are extremely well organised so that children have plenty of space to play in safety. Children are well supervised at all times and staff are deployed very effectively with different activities so that children play together and enjoy activities suitable for their stage of development. The club has a clear framework of policies and procedures, which are regularly reviewed, to contribute to the health and safety of the children who attend. Personal information is collected and stored with appropriate regard for confidentiality.

Overall children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection it was agreed that the club would devise a procedure in the event of a child not being collected from the club. It was also agreed that written permission would be obtained from parents and carers to seek emergency medical treatment for the children. Providing parents with easy access to policies and procedures was also identified as an area for improvement. Children's health and safety has now been improved as the club has clear procedures to be followed if a child is not collected and has obtained permission from parents and carers to seek medical advice and treatment in an emergency. Partnership with parents has also improved as the club's policies and procedures are clearly and attractively presented

and available to parents at the entrance to the community room so that they are clear about the organisation of the club.

### **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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)