

Cornerhouse Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY251066
Inspection date 25 June 2007
Inspector Anne-Marie Moyse

Setting Address Army Cadet Hall, Anthony Road, Torpoint, Devon, PL11 2NP

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Registered person Cornerhouse 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?

Cornerhouse Club opened in 2002. It operates from three rooms in the Army Cadet hut in the town of Torpoint. Cornerhouse Club serves the local community and surrounding areas.

There are currently 70 children from four to 11 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The group opens five days a week all year round except bank holidays, two weeks in August and Christmas. Sessions are from 07.30 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 18.00 term time and 08.00 to 17.00 holiday times.

Three full-time and two part-time staff work with the children. Two members of staff are trained to level 2, and the two managers are working towards a level 3 qualification. The setting receives support from Family Services.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have frequent opportunities to be active at the club. They walk to and from their schools each day giving them fresh air and some exercise. When at the club they have use of a large hall for ongoing games and activities throughout the session. Children choose to play musical statues, team or ball games, or can develop their own play ideas, such as working together to 'wheelbarrow' across the hall. Through these vigorous games children develop their physical skills and fitness.

The provision have a clear understanding of the requirements to care for children when they are ill or are involved in an accident. All the essential documentation is in place and used effectively to record and detail all children's medical and health aspects. All the staff hold appropriate training in first aid, however the first aid kit has not been reviewed and updated. The environment is generally clean and tidy with the staff responsible for checking that all areas are suitable for children to use. Children follow a clear hygienic routine with regard to washing hands before eating and after toileting which supports their understanding of personal hygiene.

Children's dietary needs are well known by the staff. At breakfast times children can bring in their own choices of cereals or have toast with a selection of jams and spreads. They can access fruit juice or milk to drink. At snack, fresh fruit is offered. However, this tends to be limited to apples or bananas, which is a healthy, yet restricted, choice for children. A range of drinks are readily available for children to access independently throughout the sessions.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The group uses a shared facility, which is secure, and used solely by the group when they are operating. There are clear systems in place to monitor who is in the building at any time, giving an accurate record in an emergency. The provision is regularly checked by the owners for safety, however the provision do not ensure their own risk assessments are reviewed and updated. Staff make a visual check of the provision on arrival, but there is no clear system for ensuring that all aspects have been covered. For example, electrical sockets were uncovered and a door to an office was accessible to children. The main playroom is bright and children's work is displayed attractively making the environment welcoming. However, the painted concrete floor at the provision is not ideal for children to use. The group have used some play mats and carpet squares for children to be able to play on, but these could be a tripping hazard, and limit children's use of the space. There are adequate toys and resources at the setting, which are checked for safety. However, some of the resources are showing signs of wear and tear and are not appealing to use.

The children are very aware of the procedure to follow in the event of a fire, as they practise the evacuation procedure regularly each month. The setting have a clear, safe routine for collecting and delivering children between the setting and their schools. The children are escorted by staff using appropriate safety equipment to minimise any hazards. There is a clear arrangement for the collection of children, and good relationship between the schools and the club to ensure all children are cared for safely.

Children's welfare is protected by the staff's sound understanding of the child protection procedures, and of their individual responsibility.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are eager and enthusiastic to join in with the prepared activities. They have opportunity to contribute their ideas and requests for specific activities at a circle time. The staff use children's ideas to plan a range of activities which will fulfil children's needs. This has a positive effect on the children as they are fully involved in the running of the sessions and their club. Some of the older children organise activities and support the younger children, helping to develop their independence and self-esteem. The younger children respond positively to this as they develop relationships with a wide group of people. The staff interact well with the children, providing the right balance of fun and supervision.

The main hall is used for physical play where children can be very active and noisy. They relish the opportunity to dance and play to music or organise their own games. There is no outdoor play area adjoining the setting, so the group ensure that this area is always available for children to be active. In good weather children are escorted to the nearby park.

Children are able to move freely between the central hall and the main base room which is generally a quieter area, although they can still access the piano to play tunes. There are televisions in the setting but children do not tend to watch them for long periods, opting to play or chat with their friends. They discuss with staff about their holidays, and use the wall map to find various countries which they may or may not visit. Children enjoy being creative and their beautiful pictures and projects are displayed attractively around the room. This promotes their self-esteem and ownership of the setting. They have recently looked at national emblems and have a super display of Welsh dragons.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are warmly welcomed to the setting and are cared for by regular consistent staff who know the children well. They have established some good relationships and children are confident to talk to staff, to ask for support or chat about their day. Staff respond well and value children's contributions and opinions. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents, to ensure that the staff know and respect parents wishes, and offer consistent care for the children. Children's individual achievements are celebrated, such as a birthday or a successful award, fostering children's sense of community. However, there are limited resources in the setting which promote positive images of the diverse society and non-stereotypical attitudes.

Children are polite, confident and well behaved. All the children have a clear understanding of the rules of the setting and the expectations of the staff. At circle times, and through individual discussions, children can talk to staff about any concerns or anxieties, which is dealt with by close links between the staff, parents and the schools. The links between the parents and the setting is good. On entry to the setting the staff ensure that parents understand the policies and procedures used at the setting, informing them on the routines and activities children will be involved in. Parents feel able to approach the staff to discuss any issues which are promptly addressed. The setting have a complaints procedure in place, and are developing a system to ensure that any written complaints are appropriately recorded and resolved.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting is generally well organised with clear routines and procedures, which involve the children as contributors to the running of the provision. The children and staff interact well, and are forming good relationships. The consistent staff work well as a team and understand their responsibilities. However, the setting do not have a suitable level 3 qualified person to meet the requirements, which is a breach of the National standards. The managers have been attending training, but have yet to complete the course.

Generally, all the required documentation, which contributes to children's health and well-being is in place, and completed. Although there is no clear system to regularly review and update the documentation and records, such as the consents and staff checks. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the group were required to take action to ensure that all mandatory policies were held at the setting, including a policy for child protection, a lost, and an uncollected child policy. The setting have now devised these policies to provide guidance for the staff and parents.

The group were also recommended to ensure that the wall heaters did not pose a hazard to children and that all records, policies and procedures were maintained to comply with the National Standards.

The group have not been able to install any guards around the heaters but they manage this situation by warming up the provision before the children arrive, switching off the accessible heaters while the children are present. All the required documentation is now in place and provides a framework for the staff to work with, to maintain a safe and secure environment for children.

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 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):

- provide an action plan to demonstrate how the requirement for a level 3 qualification at the setting will be met
- develop a system to review the documentation (including consents and risk assessment) and monitor the provision to continue the self assessment process
- review the resources in the provision to ensure they provide positive images of the diverse society and meet children's needs

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