

Rascals 2000

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 205422
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Inspector Saida Cummings

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Registered person Emma Louise Harding
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?

Rascals 2000 Out of School club is a privately run setting which opened in 1995 and operates from two rooms within Ronkswood Community Centre in Worcester. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. A maximum of 40 children may attend at any one time. Children from the age of four to 12 years attend the setting. The setting serves the local community and the surrounding areas. The out of school club is open each weekday from 15:00 to 18:00 during term time. Children are collected from two local primary schools.

There are currently 38 children aged from four to 12 years on roll. The setting offers support to children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and children who speak English as an additional language.

The out of school Club employs six members of staff. Of these, five hold appropriate childcare qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have opportunities to exercise and develop their physical skills on a regular basis as indoor or outdoor physical play is made available during most of the sessions. They have use of various equipment and apparatus to help them develop their physical skills, such as climbing, balancing, running and jumping. They energetically run around in the large play areas and enjoy making up games and taking part in all the available outdoor activities. Children are also able to take part in various indoor physical activities such as joining in with team games. They have use of a large hall where they are able to instigate various games and activities.

Children are developing self-care skills during daily hygiene routines including washing their hands after toileting and before meals. They are able to independently access the toilets and staff gently remind them to wash their hands. The risk of infection to children is reduced as staff follow the local health authority infectious diseases guidelines and children are not cared for if they have an infectious illness. Staff follow good health and hygiene procedures which include appropriately dealing with any accidents and administering any medication if required. They are aware of children's individual health care needs and ensure these are met at all times.

Children are adequately nourished and enjoy a varied snack tea. However, the food provided does not contain healthy and nutritious options. Consequently, children's healthy eating is not promoted. Children sit in groups during snack times and also use this time for socialising. They enjoy relaxing and chatting about how they have spent their day. Their independence is encouraged as they help with dishing up and clearing away the tea, plates and cups. Children have access to drinks at all times. They are able to pour themselves water from the jug which is made easily accessible during the sessions and are given a choice of different fruit drinks during snack times. They are encouraged to drink plenty especially after exercising and during hot weather.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and welcoming environment. Staff follow appropriate procedures for completing risk assessments to ensure hazards to children are minimised. Children are able to move around the setting safely. They are made aware of the boundaries for the indoor and outdoor areas. All appropriate safety policies and procedures are in place and staff are made aware of them. Children are constantly supervised and taught safety as part of their everyday activities. This includes discussions concerning safety rules, such as not walking with scissors and to inform staff when visiting the toilet.

Children are kept safe and protected from harm as the management and staff have a good knowledge of child protection issues and procedures. They are aware of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) guidelines including the procedures to follow should they have any concerns. However, the child protection policy does not clearly identify the procedures to follow should an allegation be made against a staff member or volunteer. Consequently, this potentially compromises children's safety and well-being.

Children have access to safe, clean and age-appropriate play equipment and resources. Staff follow appropriate procedures to ensure all equipment is regularly cleaned and checked for

safety. Children are kept safe as staff follow appropriate procedures when children are collected. They are escorted from two local schools and taught road safety during their journey to the setting. Staff have a specific register detailing all the children they are responsible for collecting to ensure there is a clear procedure. Children are made aware of the emergency evacuation procedure which is regularly practised. Appropriate procedures are in place to ensure all fire escape routes and exits are kept clear and the fire-fighting equipment is checked annually.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and talk to staff and other children with ease, enjoying spontaneous play either independently or in small groups. They are given opportunities to choose all the activities they want to take part in and instigate their own fun and games with staff assisting by supplying appropriate resources as required. For example, appropriate materials are made available at the craft table to assist children with completing their pictures and collages. They enjoy creating various craft projects either independently or collectively. They take pride in their work which is colourfully displayed. Children are able to learn new skills through the varied range of activities made available to them. These include creative craft sessions, junk modelling, cookery and making masks. Children enthusiastically join in with sports team games, such as football, hockey and basket ball. Staff supervise children during these activities and encourage healthy competition.

Children are able to self-select from a variety of age-appropriate play equipment and resources. They are able to instigate their own activities and use the toys and materials to engage in meaningful play. Children's activities are planned by the staff and children to take into account children's preferences and interests. Staff hold discussions with the children to find out their particular interests and plan suitable activities to build on these interests. Staff are aware of the need to offer different types of activities during these sessions to ensure these are varied from the normal school day. Children are also given the opportunity to relax and unwind as they sit on comfortable seating either reading or chatting to their friends. Children are happy and settled as staff ensure there is a relaxed atmosphere and give ownership to the children. As a result, children enjoy attending the setting and feel this is 'their club'.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children know what is expected of them and are generally well behaved. They are able to follow adults' instructions and hold discussions concerning safety rules and behaviour. They share the resources and understand how to take turns, for instance taking turns to use the construction equipment. Staff are good role models for the children and encourage them to be polite, saying 'please' and 'thank you'. Any behavioural issues are dealt with appropriately and sensitively. Staff praise and encourage children's positive behaviour and ensure there is a consistent approach. They hold appropriate discussions with the children to encourage them to play safely, think about their actions and to be kind to one another. Children are involved with the rule making for the club. They instigated the drawing up of the club rules where all children took time to discuss these before coming up with the final list.

Children know each other well and form harmonious relationships. They hold meaningful discussions in small groups and include each other in spontaneous play. Children have access to a range of resources to promote their awareness of diversity and take part in some planned

activities to help them understand their own and other cultures and beliefs. All children are treated equally and have equal access to all resources and activities. They are encouraged to be involved and staff ensure all children are included. There is an effective equal opportunities policy in place which is implemented by all staff. They are aware of the need to immediately address discriminatory behaviour or remarks. There are effective procedures in place for caring for any children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Staff show an awareness of how to ensure children's individual specific needs are met.

Staff establish a good partnership with parents and carers. They are initially given appropriate information about the setting which includes an outline of the main policies and procedures and how the out of school club is organised. They are kept informed of how their children are cared for as staff hold daily discussions with them when the children are collected. There is a good system for passing on any information from the schools. Any new children are settled in on a gradual basis which is fully planned with the parents and carers to ensure enough time is allowed for the children to settle into the routines of the club.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a child-friendly and welcoming environment which is appropriate for this age group. Appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures are in place which ensure children are well protected and cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. There are effective procedures for inducting new staff which are implemented over a period of time to ensure the induction process is successful. Children are cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development as they are appropriately qualified and have relevant experience of working with children of this age group. They are committed to further development and children benefit from staff continually updating their knowledge as any good practice or guidance is implemented into the care provided.

Staff plan children's activities which are the base plans only, allowing for more free play and consulting with the children as to which activities they wish to take part in. This ensures children's activities are varied, interesting and meet their individual needs. The required policies and procedures are in place which are currently under review. Parents and carers are made aware of the complaints procedure and the management are aware of the latest legislation for dealing with any complaints. Children's individual needs are met as parents and carers are requested to supply appropriate information which is initially discussed with them. All staff are made aware of any specific needs to ensure these are met at all times. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection actions were agreed to devise a system for recording the attendance of visitors, update the complaints procedure and to develop the required policies and procedures.

A system for recording the attendance of visitors is now in place. All visitors are required to sign in and out and to record the times of arrival and departure. The complaints procedure has been updated to ensure this is in line with the latest legislation. There is also a system for keeping a record of any complaints received.

The required policies and procedures have been developed. The management and staff are currently reviewing some of these to ensure they are up to date and work in practice. Parents

and carers are made aware of all the policies and procedures as a brief outline is included in the welcome information pack and they are able to see the full documents on request. However, the child protection policy does not include all the required details. The provider agreed to a further recommendation to develop this.

As a result of these improvements children's health, safety and well-being is assured.

Complaints since the last inspection

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents and carers, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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 QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- promote children's healthy eating by ensuring they are provided with healthy and nutritious options
- develop the child protection policy to ensure this clearly details the procedures to follow should an allegation be made against a staff member or volunteer and make sure staff, parents and carers are made aware of it.

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