

Park Hall CA Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	254478
Inspection date	12 April 2007
Inspector	Jennifer Turner
Setting Address	Park Hall Infant School, Park Hall Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS5 3HF
Telephone number	01922 720866
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Registered person	Park Hall Community Association
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Park Hall Community Association Out of School Club opened in 1994. It operates from three rooms and a large hall in Park Hall Junior School located in the Walsall area of the West Midlands. The group serves the local and surrounding areas.

There are currently 180 children from four to 15 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group supports children with special needs and children with English as an additional language. The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 07:30 until 09:00 and 15:15 until 18:15. The Holiday Play Scheme opens 08:00 until 17:30 during school holidays.

Twelve staff work with the children of whom seven staff hold early years or play work qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop an awareness of the need to follow appropriate personal hygiene routines. Staff ensure that this practice is fully understood and the children know that the germs could make them feel sick if they do not wash their hands properly. Children are very well protected from the risks of the spread of infection, as staff conduct effective procedures such as hand washing before handling food and cleaning tables as part of their well practised daily routines.

Children are provided with a variety of drinks and snacks which helps to keep them healthy and staff encourage children to buy healthier snacks from the tuck shop such as fruit bars and yoghurts. Children bring their own packed lunch during the holiday play scheme and are provided with regular drinks to keep them hydrated, particularly after outdoor play. They enjoy the social aspect of meal times as they gather for lunch and talk about their day. Children are developing a clear understanding of healthy eating as they discuss the reasons for eating up the sandwiches first before having their desserts. Staff offer advice to parents about what to put in their children's lunch boxes in order to maintain a balanced diet and a healthy body. Specific dietary needs are closely followed as staff obtain a good level of information from parents regarding allergies, religious needs and individual preferences.

Children delight in the opportunities they have to access the outdoor environment where they are able to play a range of ball games and parachute games. This results in them developing their skills in climbing, running and jumping as they make imaginative use of a good range of equipment and resources freely, such as the climbing wall and swinging logs. They use small tools and implements such as scissors and spatulas with ever increasing dexterity as they design mirrors with small beads and sequins.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very clean and well maintained environment which is effectively organised to enable them to move around safely with adult supervision. All toys and equipment are maintained in good condition and provide a good level of challenge appropriate to the children's age and stage of development.

Children are kept safe because staff have a good awareness of health and safety issues. They check the premises and outdoor play area each day before the children use the area and records are kept to show when checks have been carried out on the premises. Children benefit from a good range of safety measures, for example the outside gate is locked and the entrance is monitored by a receptionist when the session is in progress. Fire evacuation procedures are displayed around the building, however these have not been discussed or practised sufficiently to ensure all children know what to do. There are good procedures in place to protect children when they are taken on visits, because they wear wristbands with the emergency number of the staff responsible for them on the day, in the event that they become lost. Children have a good understanding about safety when out, which is developed through good staff explanations for example, how to cross the road safely and to wear a seatbelt when being transported in the minibus.

Children are well protected from possible abuse or neglect. Staff have a good understanding of the procedures to follow with any concerns as well as the correct information should they need to make a referral. They are fully aware of the types of abuse and signs to look for and they share this information with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play an active part at the setting and their independence is promoted through a variety of opportunities. They move around the rooms freely accessing toys and play equipment and know that they can request certain activities and they have a wish list of activities they would like to do. Children are fully involved in a wide range of enjoyable activities which helps to develop their play and leisure whilst at the play scheme. Children are able to be creative as they design mirrors decorated with coloured sequins, draw or make collages. Children have many opportunities to play in small groups as they play a range of board games, construct, or challenge each other on the computer games. Children enjoy being active which is a favourite of the children and they enjoy playing games such as the parachute game, football or circus skills workshops.

Children are happy when they arrive and keen to communicate with staff, showing them things they have done and talking to them about their experiences. Children benefit from warm relationships with staff who are interested in them and give them lots of praise and encouragement. Children play well together; they learn to share, take turns and they are beginning to respect each others feelings.

Children's individual needs are met and their welfare promoted by staff who have a good understanding of each child and their interests. There are planned and free play activities both inside and outside, weather permitting, to ensure that children have different play opportunities. Children are well occupied and are able to make their own decisions and choices about their play. Staff are keen to focus on play and fun when children are at both the club and play scheme.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. All children are welcomed into the group and encouraged to take part in activities. There are effective arrangements in place to care for children with special educational needs and all children's needs are well met. Staff plan a range of activities and use resources to promote a positive view of the wider world. This increases children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others.

Children are encouraged to think about the needs and feelings of others and new children are assigned another child as a 'buddy' to make them feel welcomed and to show them around. Children behave well because staff use positive strategies to support good behaviour. Staff encourage responsible behaviour and any inappropriate behaviour is dealt with sensitively and at the level children understand. This promotes children's welfare and development. Significant incidents are recorded and parents are kept informed of any concerns or issues.

Partnership with parents is good and children benefit from effective information sharing with parents through individual daily feedback and information displayed on the notice board. Parents receive a helpful information pack about the provision and this includes information about the policies and procedures. Questionnaires given to parents and children to gather their

views about the scheme are analysed and used to improve the provision. However, although there is a procedure for parents to make complaints or comments regarding the setting, a complaints log is not held. This means parents are not fully informed to enable all to work together.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a well-organised environment. Indoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. Staff know their roles and responsibilities and effectively implement routines to give children a broad range of experiences. New members of staff are informed about the policies and procedures through effective induction procedures. Children benefit from well deployed staff, who consistently interact with them and give children good support, care and encouragement. This helps them feel secure and confident.

Children benefit from being cared for by staff that have been vetted and have good knowledge and understanding of child development. Staffing ratios support children's care, learning and play and their ability to take an active part in the setting. The routine is designed to support children having freedom of choice and there are opportunities for spontaneous activities as the children develop their own ideas and play. Children feel confident to initiate their own play and are at ease with staff when they ask for help. Relationships are good at all levels.

Children are well cared for through staff implementing policies and having efficient recording procedures in place which protect children's health and well-being. Policy documents are reviewed and updated and all staff are given a folder containing the club's policies and procedures some of which are displayed for parents.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

The Out of School Club has made good progress to address the recommendations made at the previous inspection. They have increased the range of resources that promotes equality and anti-discriminatory practice, as well as those which meet the developmental needs of all children who attend. Details of children's special dietary needs are recorded on the children's registration forms and the information is kept where only staff are able to view them.

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 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 fire drills are carried out periodically
- devise a complaints log.

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