

The After School Club Ltd

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 130617

Inspection date 16 August 2007

Inspector Julie Whitelaw

Setting Address Cloisters Hall, The Cloisters, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 1HL

Telephone number 01923 773938 daytime Mob 07958666621 pm

E-mail debby@theholidayclub.net

Registered person The Afterschool Club Ltd

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?

The After School Club Ltd cares for children before and after school, as well as during the school holidays. The setting has been registered since June 1997. It takes place at The Cloisters Hall, Rickmansworth and cares for children from four to 12 years. The premises consist of a large hall, smaller hall, kitchen, six toilets, storage facilities and an outside play area. The breakfast club operates from 07:45 until 09:00. The after school club is open from 15:00 to 18:30, Monday to Friday, term time only. The holiday play scheme is open every school holiday from 08:15 until 18:00.

Children who attend The After School Club are collected from 10 primary schools in the local areas of Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Mill End and Chorleywood. They attend for a variety of sessions. The setting is registered to care for 50 children aged from four to eight years at any one time and currently has approximately 300 children on roll.

There are 15 staff who work with the children on a full-time or part-time basis and this includes the owner/manager. Seven staff hold an early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's physical development is promoted well. The setting offers a wide range of activities to meet the interests of all the children who attend. Indoors, children participate in group games and football tournaments. In the outside play area, children climb a climbing frame, play on a see-saw and swings, ride bikes and scooters. Children have the opportunity to swim in a small pool that is set out during fine weather. Therefore, they develop a positive attitude to physical activity.

Children develop an understanding of hygiene through the daily routine. They independently wash their hands after using the toilet and are reminded by staff of the need to do so before eating. Staff work hard to keep the environment clean and some have completed training in food hygiene. Children's health is promoted as the pool has a canopy to protect them from the sun. It is covered when not in use and regularly cleaned. Children who are ill or infectious are excluded from the setting. This helps to reduce the risk of the spread of infection. Several staff hold a relevant first aid certificate and at least one person is on site at all times. Therefore, if there is an accident or emergency, staff have the knowledge to deal with it appropriately. Policies and procedures are in place to promote children's health. However, some details are not accurately recorded in the accident and medication record. This potentially compromises children's health.

Children who attend the breakfast and after school club enjoy the benefits of nutritious food such as cereal, toast, sandwiches and fruit. Parents supply packed lunches for children who attend the play scheme all day. Children's health is promoted as items that require refrigeration are appropriately labelled and stored until required. Children sit at tables and socialise with their friends during lunch time. They are reminded by staff to eat their sandwiches first. However, children at the play scheme are given chocolate biscuits, ice cream and lollies by staff. These are less nutritious and do not promote children's understanding of healthy eating. Children are also allowed to walk around when eating snacks which is unsafe. Drinks are always available which ensures children are hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment where most potential hazards have been identified. A risk assessment is in place and daily checks are completed by staff to ensure the setting is safe for the children who attend. However, this is not fully effective. For example it has not identified that systems to promote security of the premises are not robust or that electric sockets have not been made safe. Children can independently access a wide range of resources that are well-organised.

Staff are vigilant when children are playing in the garden. A temporary barrier is set out to guide children into the garden and staff position themselves to ensure they can clearly see children entering or leaving this area. Risk assessments are in place for different activities such as swimming. A limited number of children can use the pool and are closely supervised by at least two members of staff. Children develop an understanding of personal safety through visits from the local fire brigade and police. Planned activities promote children's understanding

of road safety, stranger danger and how to deal with bullying. The fire drill is practised once a term. This ensures that children and staff know what to do in the event of a fire.

Children are cared for by staff who have been through appropriate vetting procedures and are therefore deemed suitable to work with children. They are protected from harm as staff have an adequate understanding of child protection issues and procedures. Appropriate action would be taken if staff had concerns regarding a child's well-being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well on arrival and quickly make choices about what they want to do. The wide range of activities ensures all children's interest are catered for. Children independently access an extensive range of resources that are well-organised. In the main hall they play co-operatively with others on the table top games. They use their imagination well in the home corner and enjoy building with large construction toys. Children are keen to join in organised games and competitions. Children of mixed ages form the football teams, older children show a caring attitude towards the younger ones as they play. Children understand that there are rules they have to follow and respond positively when staff remind them of what they are. They wait patiently to use the computer games and understand that they can only play on games appropriate for their age and for a maximum of 20 minutes.

In the smaller hall, children have the opportunity to participate in a range of craft activities. These are well-organised and planned in advance to ensure all the appropriate resources are to hand. Children are challenged as they control the clay on the potter's wheel and show pride in their efforts. They concentrate well as they draw and colour pictures. Their confidence is promoted as they sing songs with other children on the Karaoke machine. During fine weather children can choose to play in the outside area. The range of resources including a climbing frame, bikes and swimming pool promote children's physical skills. The consistent approach to managing children's behaviour ensures that children develop an understanding of right and wrong.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff know the children well and treat them with equal concern. The effective settling-in procedures ensure that children quickly feel at home within the setting. Displays of children's work and photos in the entrance hall promote their self-esteem. Opportunities to perform plays and sing in front of staff and other children develops their confidence. Children learn about other cultures and festivals through planned craft activities. Topic work promotes children's understanding of the wider world. For example, their learning is extended as they make a bow-drill to start a fire, whilst closely supervised by staff. Resources such as dressing up clothes, dolls, small world toys and jigsaws promote children's understanding of others. Planned activities that involve children in fundraising promote empathy for children less fortunate than they are.

Children behave well and are polite. They form close friendships with their peers and confidently interact with the staff. When necessary children are reminded of the rules of the setting and their attention is drawn to the poster displayed on the wall which outlines how they should behave. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are welcomed into the setting.

Staff are aware they may need to adapt activities and arrange additional support to ensure children are fully included and reach their potential.

Staff work in partnership with parents to meet children's needs. They receive written information about the setting. Regular newsletters and the daily verbal exchange of information ensures parents are kept informed. Systems are in place to record complaints, in line with the regulations. Letters received from parents praise the setting and confirm that children enjoy their time at the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by staff who work well together as a team and are clear about their roles and responsibilities. Their sound understanding of supervision ensures that children play safely and can independently make choices about

their play. Regular team meetings for staff who work at the after school club ensures they are keep fully informed. Some staff have updated their skills and knowledge by attending training on inclusion, conflict management and diversity.

Space is organised well to ensure that children can independently choose from a wide range of activities. Weekly planning ensures that there is plenty of variety and that children are occupied and have fun. Most of the required documentation is in place. However, some of it, such as the attendance register, medication and accident book does not contain the necessary information. This potentially compromises children's well-being. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the setting was asked to ensure a written record is maintained of completed risk assessments and includes any action taken or required. This is now in place and regularly discussed at team meetings to promote the safety of the children who attend.

It was also recommended that a special needs statement is included in policies and procedures and available to staff and parents. This has now been addressed and is available for parents to view, thus promoting the well-being of the children.

The setting were also asked to ensure there are clearer recording procedures for documenting accidents, medicine administered and attendance of staff and visitors. An accurate record is maintained of visitors. However, other documentation does not always contain the relevant information and therefore a recommendation will remain to ensure documentation is accurately maintained.

Complaints since the last inspection

A concern was raised under Standard 6: Safety, regarding the safety of the procedure for the collection of children carried out by staff. Ofsted investigated this concern by carrying out an unannounced visit on 24/02/05. The provision has provided Ofsted with an internal investigation into the incident that was reported. Ofsted is satisfied that there is no evidence that the reported incident took place or that children have been put at risk. The registered person has also provided Ofsted with an updated risk assessment.

The following actions were been raised as a result of the visit:

Standard 1: Suitable person - Ensure that members of staff who have not been vetted are not left in the sole charge of children (this refers to school collection.)

Standard 7: Health - Ensure that entries in the accident book are signed by parents.

Standard 14 - Ensure Ofsted are informed of all significant changes at the earliest opportunity.

A satisfactory response to these actions has been received and the provider remains qualified for registration.

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):

- ensure that children are seated when eating and that food or snacks, given to children who attend the play scheme, are nutritious and promote their understanding of healthy eating
- further develop risk assessments to ensure they effectively highlight potential hazards (this includes the security of the setting and the safety of the electric sockets)
- ensure all documentation which is required for the efficient and safe management of the provision and to promote the welfare, care and learning of children is accurately maintained and includes the relevant details(This refers to the attendance record for staff and children, the administered medication and accidents record).

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