

The Breakaway Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	26 June 2007
Inspector	Karen Cooper
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Registered person	North Smethick Housing Development Trust
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 Breakaway Club opened in 2005 and operates from two rooms in Brasshouse Lane Community Centre which is located in Smethwick. Children attend from a local catchment area.

A maximum of 26 children may attend the club at any one time. There are currently 60 on roll. The club opens on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 15.30 to 17.00 term time only. A holiday club is also open on various days from 09.30 to 16.30 during school holidays. The club supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club employs four members of staff. All staff hold an appropriate early years qualification. Additional staff are employed to work in the holiday club.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene through daily routines with appropriate adult support and guidance. They know why they wash their hands after using the toilet and before

eating. Older children can tend to all their personal needs, younger children still need and get appropriate support as they learn to develop personal independence. Appropriate cleaning procedures ensure that children are protected from the spread of infection. Staff ensure that their first aid knowledge is kept up to date and that the first aid box is readily to hand. They keep a record of accidents in the setting and inform parents. However, the current book has been misplaced and the well-being of children is not fully safeguarded because a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious is not shared with parents.

Children understand the benefits of a healthy diet. For example, they request fruit as a preference to sweets. Staff discuss snack choices with the children to introduce the principle of healthy eating. They take account of the children's preferences to ensure food is provided that appeals to them and meets their dietary needs. Children are provided with fresh drinking water throughout the session to ensure that they do not become dehydrated.

Children get plenty of robust physical exercise. They frequently use the nearby park facilities including a climbing frame and slide. Through topics such as 'healthy eating' children are helped to understand how exercise helps them to stay healthy. Children confidently use a wide variety of large and small equipment to develop their physical skills including crayons, pencils, the pool table, paint brushes, books and computers.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children use a sufficient range of safe and well maintained toys, resources and furniture. These are well organised to encourage independent access and are regularly checked for safety. Staff ensure that children are welcomed individually as they arrive and spend time talking to their parents at the end of the session. Children's work is displayed attractively which helps to provide a welcoming environment.

Children move freely and safely around the premises because staff are vigilant and carry out rigorous safety checks and risk assessments to ensure they are protected from harm. Effective security systems ensure that children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised and there are clear procedures to ensure only authorised people collect them. Through topics such as 'Stranger danger' and the 'Injury minimisation programme for schools' children are beginning to learn about their own safety. They gain a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe in the event of a fire and regularly practise emergency evacuation procedures to ensure they are aware of where to go to stay safe. This helps children to begin to take responsibility for themselves and others. Appropriate fire equipment is provided and is regularly checked to ensure it is in good working order.

All staff have undertaken child protection training and are confident that they would be able to recognise any signs or symptoms of abuse. They know the correct action to take to protect a child if they have a concern. However, they are not familiar with procedures to follow should an allegation of abuse be made against a member of staff. There is a written child protection policy in place which is discussed with parents before their children attend the club.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive happy, are keen to join in with the activities and know the routine. They are sociable and close and caring relationships with adults increase their sense of trust and help

them develop a strong sense of belonging. They have access to a varied range of resources that are suitable to their age and stage of development and are encouraged by staff to make independent choices about what they would like to take part in.

Children enjoy participating in a poster competition drawing pictures of their favourite animal, pet or place. They enthusiastically join in board games and use the pool table with skill and confidence. The children show and speak proudly about their displayed work and are generally engaged in their play.

A flexible approach to planning and an appropriate balance between adult and child led activities allows children to play and learn at their own pace. Children are valued and staff help them to feel good about themselves by frequently providing positive support, praise and encouragement. This helps build children's self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and regular discussions with parents ensure that their needs are effectively met. They have equal access to the varied range of toys and resources. However, their knowledge and understanding of diversity is limited because of the lack of choice regarding resources that promote positive images of culture, disability and gender.

Children play happily and are confident, sociable and secure. They respond positively to the staff who ensure that behaviour is managed with the use of praise and explanation. Children are encouraged to share, take turns and show consideration for others. They are listened to and the staff value what they say, which helps them to feel good about themselves.

Children are cared for in accordance with parent's wishes and information is shared on a regular basis to ensure that they are informed of their child's daily events and progress. Relationships between staff and parents are friendly and staff take time to talk to them at the end of each day. Parents are provided with written information about the club and the notice board contains other useful information. However, they are not made aware of the procedures to follow if they have a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are at ease and confident to initiate their own activities. They benefit from consistent daily routines and a varied range of activities inside and outside of the setting. Space is organised effectively to ensure children are able to rest, play and eat comfortably. Staff are deployed appropriately and the recruitment process is effective which ensures that all staff are appropriately qualified and vetted.

Most documentation which contributes to the children's health, safety and well-being is in place and is regularly reviewed. However, an equal opportunities and special needs policy is not in place. Records are kept locked securely in a filing cabinet to ensure the children's information remains confidential. Overall, the provision meets the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable as this is the first inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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):

- ensure a record is maintained of any accidents and implement a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious
- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures with regards to an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff
- develop children's knowledge and understanding of diversity, for example, by increasing resources that reflect positive images of disability, culture and gender
- develop partnership with the parents and carers by ensuring that they are made aware of what to do if they have a complaint
- devise an equal opportunities and special needs policy which is consistent with current legislation.

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