

Rickleton Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	318605
Inspection date	12 April 2007
Inspector	Judith Ann Hodgson

Setting Address	Vigo Lane, Rickleton, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE38 9EZ
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Registered person	Patricia Ann Vinther
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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?

Rickleton Kids Club was registered in September 1998. While the provision mainly serves children attending Rickleton Primary School and St. John Boste, it is also open to the wider community. The group is situated in the community wing of Rickleton Primary School, Rickleton, Washington.

The group provides care from 08:00-09:00 and 15:00-18:00, Monday to Friday in school term-time and from 08:00-18:00, Monday to Friday in school holidays. The group currently has 62 children on roll; they attend a variety of sessions to suit parents' working patterns.

The group uses a community room as the main area for children's play, there is also a separate IT room available and nearby toilets. The kitchen area is located off the main community room. The group has use of the school playground and field as outdoor play areas and this is accessed from the community room.

The group supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. There are no children attending who speak English as an additional language.

There are five full-time members of staff working with the group, all of whom hold an appropriate child care qualification. The group has a pool of staff that can be used on an

as-and-when-needed basis; some of these staff hold or are working towards an appropriate child care qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well ordered environment. They are learning about good personal hygiene through following well established daily routines of washing their hands at appropriate times. Children are reminded to wash their hands before meals and after being to the toilet, they are provided with paper towels to dry their hands which helps to prevent cross contamination. Policies and permissions regarding medications and emergency medical care are in place and all staff have first aid qualifications, which means that children are well cared for in the event of an accident. Accident records are kept and signed by parents or carers which enables continuity of care and ensures children's well-being. The setting has a policy of not accepting children who are ill, so helping to prevent cross infection and thereby safeguarding the children's welfare.

A good range of nutritious foods are offered to the children at breakfast and tea time which has a positive impact on their health. Healthy foods include cereals, toast, fruit and sandwiches. They bring packed lunches during holiday care and learn about food storage through discussion with staff about keeping food cool in warm weather. Children learn social skills as they are encouraged to be involved in meal times. They help to clear the table, take food orders and help to clear up afterwards.

Children have opportunities for physical play to encourage them to exercise to maintain a healthy body. The large school field and yard are available for organised games, such as football and throw and catch. Children join in these games enthusiastically as staff are very involved and encourage children to take part. There is a wide range of sports and outdoor play equipment provided to maintain the children's interest. Children enjoy the exercise and this benefits their health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a large, bright room. Wall displays of children's work and current projects celebrates their achievements. There is a very wide range of age appropriate toys and games available which provide stimulating play opportunities enhancing children's enjoyment. These are suitably stored to be accessible to children and encourage choice and independence. For example, children play with the games available on the table tops or carefully pack these away and choose other games from the shelves. Staff regularly check the cleanliness and condition of the equipment to ensure that the children can play with the toys safely. There is an area for reading and relaxation but this is not used as a rest area. This may have a negative impact on the well-being of children who need to relax or play quietly, although quiet table top games are available.

Staff are vigilant to maintain the children's safety through visual daily checks to minimise potential hazards. The outdoor area is checked by the caretaker to provide a safe play area on the field and school yard. Children are kept secure as the outer doors are locked and a buzzer system alerts the staff to any visitors who are then asked to sign in. Children learn about fire

safety as they practise the fire drill regularly. Staff monitor these fire evacuation practices to identify any areas for improvement thus ensuring the children's safety. Children are beginning to take responsibility for their own safety as they are taught about road safety on outings and are reminded about safety on steps outdoors.

Staff have a good understanding of how to protect children from harm, with regard to child protection issues. They are aware of their responsibilities and of the reporting procedures if concerns are raised about a child's health, safety or welfare and are confident in the recognition of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. Concerns are recorded and all staff are confident in implementing the setting's child protection policy. Children's welfare is therefore suitably protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

This is a strength of the setting. Children are happy here, staff know the children and support their play, they are vigilant to include children in games and activities so that all children feel valued and part of the group. Most children come in eagerly and explore independently, whilst others are helped to become involved in activities through sensitive staff intervention and support. Children are involved in the planned play opportunities set up by staff or are free to choose from the wide range of playthings available. Children enjoy playing with games, IT equipment and large play equipment such as pool and football tables. The children are respectful of each other and the staff. They are polite and take turns. For example, when playing with the IT equipment older children devise a list of names for taking turns and time each other to ensure fair play.

Their creative and imaginative skills are enhanced as they have access to dressing up clothes, small world toys and a broad range of art materials. Children also develop their social skills as they chat, sing and dance for each other. Staff encourage children in their play through listening to their ideas and responding with smiles and suggestions to their comments. This helps the children to develop their self esteem. Organised team games outside involve all ages and encourages children's physical development. Children delight in using the wide range of stimulating and attractive outdoor equipment, such as quoits, hoops, balls, bats and large sit on bouncy balls.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed into this setting and are treated with respect. There are opportunities for the children to become familiar with other cultures, religions and a wider world. The group makes regular fundraising efforts and donates the proceeds to an adopted charity. The club has resources, such as small world toys, puzzles and dressing up outfits, which support positive images of other cultures and differences. These activities help to ensure that the children develop a positive attitude towards others and increases their awareness of a wider world. The staff value and respect children's differences and encourage everyone to play a full part in the setting, through encouraging all to be involved. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are welcomed, the premises are on the ground floor and there is an accessible toilet.

Children are well behaved. The children have a club council which involves them in the decision making of the setting. For instance, they devise a set of rules which are suitably displayed. This

allows them to take responsibility for their own actions and helps them to set their own boundaries. Staff are sensitive to the children's needs and have a consistent approach to behaviour management using praise to support good behaviour. All children spoken to enjoy the activities on offer and demonstrate affection and respect for the staff.

An effective partnership with parents ensures individual needs are adequately met, which promotes stability. Information is shared with parents at the onset of care through the completion of a child registration record. This enables continuity of care and enables the staff to have regard to such things as allergies and religious preferences. Parents discuss their children's achievements and development on an informal basis at each end of the care session and are invited to share the policies and planning. The notice board has details of the current topics, policies and the regulator contact details. However, the regulator contact details are not up to date so parents do not have all the information they need and this may have a negative impact on the children's welfare. Parents are also provided with suitable information through an introductory leaflet and regular newsletters.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff work well as a team to provide a fun and stimulating environment for children. The setting has an experienced manager who organises staffing rotas to ensure that the adult-child ratio is maintained. There are contingency measures in place for emergencies when additional staff can be brought in. A range of policies and procedures supports the working practice of the setting. All documents and records are stored to maintain confidentiality and kept for the required length of time.

Children move around the setting freely and choose from the suitably stored resources or take part in activities set out by staff. The space is organised to encourage choice as there is space for a wide variety of activities to run concurrently. The staff are organised to enable maximum time to be spent with the children; staff use this time very effectively by playing games with the children and being involved in the children's outdoor activities.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provision was asked to ensure that the manager has at least a level three qualification, appropriate to the post. The current manager has a level three qualification and another staff member has recently completed a level three course and is awaiting certification.

The provision was also required to ensure that at least minimum staffing ratios were maintained at all times. The manager ensures that at least three members of staff are on duty and has contingency measures in place for emergencies when additional staff can be brought in from another setting.

Complaints since the last inspection

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 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 that the correct contact number for the regulator is available on the notice board of information for parents and carers
- ensure that provision is made for children who wish to relax or play quietly.

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