

Bilton Grangers

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	400177
Inspection date	10 April 2007
Inspector	Shirley Maynard
Setting Address	Bilton Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 3BA
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Registered person	The Grange Partnership
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?

Bilton Grangers out of school club and holiday care scheme has been registered since October 1992. It is privately owned and managed by The Grange Partnership and operates from the rented canteen of Bilton School on the outskirts of Harrogate. The care scheme uses the school playground for outdoor play and has use of the school hall.

It is open Monday to Friday, during term time between 07.30 and 09.00 and 15.00 and 18.00. In the school holidays opening hours are 08.00 to 18.00. The club is registered to care for 60 children aged four to eight years. Children up to 11 years old attend. Currently there are 232 children on roll of which 128 are aged between four and eight years.

There are nine members of staff. Of these, two hold an appropriate Level 3 qualification in early years, a further two members of staff hold Level 2 qualifications and three members of staff are currently working towards childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in clean and well maintained premises. They positively benefit from regular fresh air and the opportunity to enjoy and develop their physical skills as they play in the large outdoor space. They learn about how their bodies move as they run, walk, balance, skip, hop and develop control and coordination as they play with a extensive range of suitable equipment. These include, bats and balls, stilts, balancing beams, wheeled toys; all of which contribute to their good health and physical development.

The children are beginning to develop good health and hygiene practices through the regular routines of the session. For example, staff gently remind children to wash their hands before snack and meal times and after using the toilet. Children discuss with staff why they need to get rid of germs and make sure their hands are clean. The written sick child policy ensures appropriate measures are in place when children are ill. Most staff hold appropriate first aid certificates and this means if children sustain a minor injury, they can be treated quickly and effectively.

Snack and meal times are a social occasion where children sit together and talk. Children's good health is positively promoted because of the group's strong commitment to healthy eating. The children are offered a wide selection of nutritious snacks and drinks. Fresh fruit is available throughout every session and staff discuss with children about healthy eating and why fruit aids children's growth and development. Children thoroughly enjoy making fruit smoothies and try the different flavours. They are able to quench their thirst independently as fresh drinking water is readily accessible from a drinks dispenser in the corner of the room. During the school holidays, parents provide their children with packed lunches and staff store perishable foods in the fridge to ensure the food remains fresh and nutritious.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children greatly benefit from being cared for in an environment where the space is well organised to accommodate separate activities and quieter areas. An abundance of colourful posters, information and equipment is displayed to make the premises bright and interesting. However, there are very few examples of the children's own artwork which would reinforce their individual sense of belonging. There is a good selection of furniture and soft furnishings available allowing the children to play, rest and eat in comfort. Children enjoy moving freely from one activity to the next and staff provide a wide range of activities to meet their individual needs and interests. Children can independently access the wide range of quality resources, many of which are stored at accessible height for them and are well labelled for younger children to easily identify the contents and so develop their independence.

Staff are vigilant and supervise children closely to promote their safety. The procedures for collection of children both from school and the club is robust, and comprehensive risk assessments are regularly undertaken; this helps identify and minimise potential hazards to children. Staff frequently practise the evacuation procedure with the children and as a result, they develop a good awareness of what to do in an emergency, such as a fire. The children also greatly benefit from visits from the emergency services, such as the fire and rescue services,

the police and recently from network rail who talked to the children about the extreme dangers of playing near railway lines.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by staff who have a good level of knowledge with regard to child protection. Staff are confident in how to record their concerns and to report to their manager as soon as possible. All the necessary guidance for recording and reporting suspected child abuse to the appropriate services is held and a thorough child protection policy is in place. Parents are made fully aware of the staff's responsibilities in protecting children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and happy and have developed positive relationships with the staff and each other. Plans and observations during the visit show children have access to a balanced range of stimulating and interesting activities and resources, suitable for the ages of children attending. Consequently, they remain focused for prolonged periods of time on activities of their own choosing. The room is set up into specific areas, including creative, small construction, quiet/book area, snack area and physical area with pool and table top football. Children also have unlimited access to the large outdoor space. Ample resources to support their play and learning are available, including construction, sand and water activities. Other resources include balancing beams which the children persistently try to negotiate. Staff are on hand to join in with ball games, such as tennis and cricket, which helps children develop their hand-eye coordination and positively benefit from fresh air and exercise.

Children are able to organise themselves and the materials they want to use and demonstrate a sense of belonging as they approach staff for additional support and resources. Holiday activities are planned around a theme and children thoroughly enjoy making Indian rainmakers to contribute to the 'wild west week'. The children also benefit from regular visitors to widen their experiences. A recent visit from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) proved a huge success and the children eagerly asked questions about their role.

The children clearly enjoy their time at the setting. They are confident in discussing the fun they have with friends, being able to play outside with lots of different resources and how kind the staff are. The staff are on hand to listen to the children, they promote their feelings of self-esteem by giving regular praise and encouragement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff warmly welcome all children and parents into the setting and recognise each child as an individual. Staff ensure they obtain all the required and relevant information on every child by communicating well with parents. This ensures staff are able to provide appropriate care and meet all children's individual needs. The owners and manager have a very positive attitude to caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities, and they are positively welcomed. A specially adapted toilet is available and a ramp for the entrance enables wheelchair users to access the provision with ease. A sound range of resources contributing to children's understanding of diversity is available, for instance, books, posters and dressing up clothes. However, positive images of race and disability in the play provision are limited. As a result, children's understanding of the needs, views, cultures and beliefs of others is not consistently promoted.

Children's understanding of acceptable behaviour is reinforced by staff's good use of praise and encouragement. Appropriate strategies are well used and take into account the children's age and stage of development. Staff are on hand to sensitively intervene in helping children to resolve issues and show patience and tolerance. For example, when several children wanted to use the wheeled toys outside they agreed to draw up a list enabling everyone to have a turn. As a result, children learn to resolve disputes through negotiation and compromise.

Children benefit from being cared for where a comprehensive information booklet is available to all parents and outlines the practice and procedures of the setting. This enables parents to be fully informed of the care their children will receive. Staff are also on hand at the beginning and end of sessions to discuss any concerns or queries with parents. This ensures children's needs are well met and they are cared for according to their parents' wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Robust recruitment and vetting procedures ensures all staff are thoroughly checked. The comprehensive induction procedures enables staff to have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. A strong commitment to continual improvement and sound understanding of the National Standards, for example, thorough further training opportunities, ensures children are well protected and cared for by qualified and experienced staff who have a sound knowledge of child development.

Staff demonstrate a high regard for the well-being of the children. The record of children's attendance shows that ratios are effectively maintained to promote children's care. Staff organise space, time and resources effectively to meet children's needs very well. Children greatly benefit from the staff's involvement in their play and activities, and this enhances their good health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and their ability to make a positive contribution.

Most relevant documentation and records, that help safeguard children's welfare, are in place and these are well maintained and stored in a confidential manner. Parents sign on a daily basis to acknowledge that medication has been administered, and there are effective recordings of accidents. However, the policy relating to a child being lost does not clearly identify the procedure to follow in the event of a child going missing from an actual session. Furthermore, the complaints procedure needs to be updated in line with current legislation

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 provider was asked to add contact details for the police to the procedure on uncollected or lost children, to enter full details of injuries to children into the accident records and to improve information given to parents regarding child protection duties.

There has been good progress made in most areas and children's well-being is well promoted. The procedure for uncollected or lost children has been revised and includes contact details for the local police. A new accident record has been established and staff clearly record the details of any injuries children have sustained and this is appropriately signed by parents. Details

of the staff's obligation in relation to child protection are included in the parents information booklet and displayed on the noticeboard.

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):

- continue to develop play materials which reflect positive images of diversity and disability
- ensure the complaints procedure complies with current legislation requirements and is available to parents on request
- display children's work at an appropriate level in the room to enhance the setting.

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