

Little Cherubs

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	501480
Inspection date	18 May 2007
Inspector	Sara Haigh
Setting Address	Little Cherubs, Broadstone Hall Primary School, Broadstone Hall Road South, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 5JD
Telephone number	0161 432 1916
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Registered person	Karen Kempster
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?

Little Cherubs at Broadstone Hall Primary School is part of The Little Cherubs group of two clubs. It operates from the main club room located at the end of the school hall and after 16:30 they have use of the hall. There is an enclosed outdoor area for outside play. The school is located in the South Reddish area of Stockport.

A maximum of 30 children under eight years may attend at any one time. There are currently 31 children on roll, 20 are aged between four years and eight years. The provision is open each weekday from 15.15 to 17.45 during term time only.

There are three members of staff, all of whom, hold suitable qualifications. The setting supports children with learning difficulties.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted by staff who implement appropriate hygiene practices in relation to food handling and preparation. For example, ensuring tables are wiped with anti-bacterial solution prior to snacks. Children are routinely reminded to wash their hands before eating and exclusion policies are in place to help prevent the spread of infection and maintain the children's good health.

Snack times are social occasions where children sit around tables with their friends enjoying their company and food. They are offered a reasonable variety of food, such as fresh fruit, crackers and yoghurts. Fresh drinking water is freely available throughout the session.

Children have very good opportunities to enjoy a range of physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They routinely use the school hall and playground to play games, such as football and cricket. Staff are keen to teach the children traditional activity games, such as 'bulldog' and team skipping. Staff are positive role models who lead by example and encourage physical activity.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a pleasant and welcoming environment. Their art work is attractively displayed which helps create a sense of belonging. Children are able to follow their own interests and develop their independence as they choose from a reasonable range of developmentally appropriate resources and equipment. Through discussion and established routines children are becoming increasingly aware of their personal safety. For example, the children know they must meet staff at the designated meeting place within the school.

Staff generally have a satisfactory understanding of safety issues within the setting and take appropriate steps to minimise most hazards. As a result, children are generally able to move around safely indoors. However, the smoke alarm in the kitchen area is not in working order and attention is required to ensure the gate is secure when using the outdoor area, especially when parents assemble to collect children from after school activities in the hall.

Children's welfare is adequately safeguarded by staff who have a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues. They are generally aware of possible signs and symptoms of abuse and would report concerns to the manager, who is able to implement appropriate procedures to protect children from possible harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enter the club confidently and enjoy relaxed and informal relationships with the staff. Staff are interested in the children's experiences at school and listen with interest to what they have to say. Children are busy, interested and happy. They enjoy a varied range of activities which are balanced between those which are adult planned and those which are child initiated.

Staff become involved in the children's activities, playing them at football, sitting with a group who choose to draw pictures and reading books in the quiet area. Children enjoy serving customers in their pretend café, asking what they would like for their dinner from the menu. Some children help staff to prepare the snacks, buttering crackers and cleaning tables. Most children spend the majority of their time playing with balls, skipping ropes and on the climbing frame and slide.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a positive attitude and generally respect the thoughts and feelings of others within the group. They are recognised as individuals and encouraged to participate in all group activities and games, such as skipping, football or baking, regardless of gender and ability. Children with learning difficulties are well supported, as the manager uses her experience as a special needs support assistant to ensure children's needs are met. Staff adapt activities or provide additional support to ensure younger or less able children are able to take part and complete activities. Children learn about our diverse society through the positive role models of staff, resources that portray positive, non-stereotypical images and as they engage in activities that teach them about various celebrations and festivals.

Children are generally well behaved and respond positively to age appropriate behaviour management strategies. Clear explanations and consistent boundaries ensure children are aware of the consequences of their actions. Children are routinely praised for being helpful, sharing or helping another child.

Staff promote relaxed and informal relationships with parents. Valuable information is routinely exchanged as parents and carers talk to staff on a daily basis. Parents receive a brochure which includes the club's policies and procedures and have access to an informative notice board. However, the complaints information does not include the address of the regulator.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The facility supports the children's development and learning satisfactorily and promotes positive outcomes for children. Suitable recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that children are safe and secure. In practice staff work towards keeping children healthy and safeguard their welfare reasonably well. They work together as a consistent team to ensure that children are safe and well cared for. Staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities and are adequately deployed to ensure children have satisfactory levels of support and attention. Children relate well to the staff who are kind and friendly towards them.

Overall, attention to written documentation promotes children's welfare and development. Appropriate information is held in relation to children's health, medical needs and personal details and records of children's hours of attendance are also satisfactorily maintained. However, the records of staff attendance do not always accurately reflect the actual times of attendance.

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 requested to ensure that the conditions of registration relating to minimum age of children who attend are maintained and the name, home address and date of birth of each child who is looked after on the premises, are recorded and their names are included on the daily register. The provider has addressed these issues and all children attending are four years old or over. The register is completed accurately and includes all children attending. Records show the appropriate details of all children on roll.

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 all fire detection equipment is in working order and the outside play area is secure and children are not able to leave unsupervised
- review the written complaints information to include the address of the regulator
- ensure the system for registering staff attendance is accurately maintained.

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