

Barnardo's Action with Young Carers

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY243327
Inspection date	16 August 2007
Inspector	Frank William Kelly
Setting Address	24 Colquitt Street, Liverpool, Merseyside, L1 4DE
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Registered person	Barnardo's
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?

Barnardo's Action with Young Carers has been in operation since 1991 and registered with Ofsted in the current premises in June 2003. It is operated by an organisation. It is based within a detached property, which is situated in the city centre of Liverpool. Children are cared for within a main playroom on the ground floor of the property. There is no outdoor play area.

There are 78 children aged from five years to 18 years on roll, seven of whom are under eight years of age. Children attend during the school holidays and occasional after school sessions. All children attending are young carers and access to the project is on a referral basis.

There are six staff employed to work directly with the children, five of whom hold recognised Social Work or Youth Work qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Good policies and procedures are in place, which promote children's health and well-being. For example, children are requested not to come to the setting if they are ill or infectious, thus reducing the further risk of spreading infection. The management is aware of the requirement to report notifiable diseases, however, at present there is no up-to-date list to provide guidance for staff less familiar with those requiring reporting. Systems for recording accidents and the administration of medication are maintained as required.

Staff help to keep the setting very clean and well ventilated. On a daily basis children are encouraged to follow good personal hygiene practices, such as hand washing after visiting the toilet. They have access to good resources, such as liquid hand wash and hot air hand dryers. During group discussions older children discuss using deodorant.

Children enjoy a range of activities to help promote their physical skills. This is because staff plan well, to incorporate physical activity into the daily plans. During workshops the children are encouraged to move and stretch. Younger children laugh and jump about as they pretend to walk with the exaggerated steps of a monster with six-foot wide feet. Outings to local commercial activity centres provide them with opportunities to climb, slide, swing and stretch. On other occasions they enjoy the fresh air as they visit the local play parks, where they get to run around whilst playing football and using the fixed equipment.

Children help themselves to drinks at any time as the jugs of juice and cups are easily accessible throughout the play sessions. Regular breaks are included in the activity workshops, where staff actively encourage the children to have drinks to help keep them hydrated and refreshed. Children bring their own packed lunches and staff work closely with parents to help promote healthier selections for the children to eat. Dietary needs are known by staff and included within the activity risk assessments and planning, to promote children's well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Staff have worked hard to make the setting bright and welcoming for the children. The effective use of the children's art work, writing, pictures and commercial posters makes this a relaxing and child friendly environment within which the children are at ease. Good quality equipment and comfortable furniture, such as 'squashy' sofas makes this a relaxing place to be where all the children can play, eat and chat with their friends.

Children are kept safe as the setting implements the policies and procedures in place in an effective manner, thus promoting the children's safety. For example, access to the setting is well monitored, and the space organised to minimise trip and slip hazards. Staff understand the need to move furniture in a safe manner. Children are reminded to be careful of others and trips out are well planned with good consideration given to helping the children learn about how they can help keep themselves safe. For instance, when visiting somewhere, staff always establish a central meeting place and remind children to head to it should they become lost or separated.

Fire safety has been thoughtfully considered to promote the safety of those in the premises. Regular servicing of the equipment and checks of the detection and emergency lighting systems takes place. Staff practise with the children the evacuation procedure to help them become familiar with what to do in an emergency. Visitors are shown the fire exits when they first arrive and staff discuss with children and parents during their initial visits, what the alarm sounds like.

The setting demonstrates a clear commitment to safeguarding children. All staff are required to complete in-house training as part of the organisations staff training plan. The clear and informative policies and procedures for child protection are linked to the Local Safeguarding Children Board and further promote the children's safety and well-being. Staff are familiar with their roles and responsibilities and have a useful flow chart for their easy reference. Procedures to be followed should an allegation be made against staff are known by the designated person responsible for child protection. However, they are not currently included within the information available to the staff. Parents are kept well informed of the settings responsibilities through useful written information about child protection procedures, as this is provided prior to children being cared for.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The setting places a strong emphasis on fun for the children. It recognises the importance of having a good time. Consequently the children are happy, relaxed and enthusiastic during their time here. Staff talk to the children about their likes and wishes, often through games and activities.

The excellent planning by staff means that the children get the best out of their short time at the setting. This is because the staff use their knowledge of the individual children and organise activities that help build children's confidence and self-esteem. For example, during the inspection the children present were participating in a poetry workshop. During which they became involved in the world of 'Wiggly Woo', a monster who cooks the most awful stew. The leader of the workshop engages the children fully; firstly by introducing the character and his awful ways and then encouraging the children to express their creativity through acting out scenes from the poem and practising new skills, such as interviewing Woo.

The project staff accompany the children throughout, sitting closely and providing well timed encouragement and support. Staffs' individual knowledge of the children means that they know when to actively encourage the children to try something new and when to accept that the children were not ready to participate fully. Good use of praise and tactful adult interactions encourage the children to value the contribution of each member of the group and to listen to and take turns in a respectful manner.

By the end of the session children are relishing their time with their peers and the adults caring for them. They become more and more confident in their contributions, using a wider variety of vocabulary and independently seeking out props to enhance their scenes. They are engrossed in the activities and become more and more animated in their actions. On other occasions children enjoy more traditional activities including arts and crafts, playing table football and snooker. Good use of the organisations contacts means that on occasions, external activity schemes, such as soccer camp are organised for children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The effective information systems in place, help staff meet the children's individual needs well, thus children are valued as individuals and are treated with equal concern. The setting has strong links with other associated agencies to help support the care of children with any learning difficulties or disabilities.

Play is non gender specific and children are free to make choices that interest them. Resources provide positive images of the diversity within today's society and those of the local community. Creative activities, such as making Chinese dragons are linked to cultural celebrations, which is enhancing children's understanding of others' similarities and differences. On a practical basis the staff take children out and into the local community and help develop their life skills, such as using public transport.

Staff encourage the children's behaviour very well. A calm and polite approach is presented by the staff to the children. This positive role modelling is mirrored in return by the children, who are well behaved, polite and courteous. The settings good use of local icons, such as opposing football teams is helping children to learn to be tolerant, respect other's opinions and be sensitive to each other's feelings. This approach along with other well planned activities linked to peer pressure is successfully helping to develop the children's citizenship.

Partnership with parents is central to the care for children. Clear systems for sharing information help the staff plan the care and activities that meet the children's needs. Effective systems for sharing information include staff visiting the children at home, printed information about the project and regular updating of children's records.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The organisations robust recruitment and selection procedure ensures that children are protected and cared for by suitable and experienced adults. Children are very well supported by their identified key workers and much time is devoted to building and maintaining relationships with the children to keep them secure. For example, prior to starting at the club the children and their parents visit on several occasions to help the children gain a sense of what to expect and build up relationships with the staff. Thus, once children attend they are relaxed, secure and confident within their surroundings and with the adults present. As the setting often does not operate on a regular basis during term time, the key workers keep in contact with the children during these times to maintain relationships and ongoing support to the children.

The setting has clear aims and how these are to be achieved. Effective induction and ongoing appraisal systems mean that the staff implement the good policies and procedures in a consistent manner, which promotes the safe and consistent care for the children. Documentation overall is well maintained. However, there are a few emissions which are required. These include written parental consent for the transporting of children in a vehicle, information for staff regarding the types of notifiable diseases that require reporting, and what happens to staff or volunteers should an allegation be made against them.

Other management systems are in place, such as regular reviewing of the care packages for children, the safety practices within the premises and the effectiveness of the activity program. This enables the children's changing needs to be met effectively.

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 two recommendations were made. One related to the formalising the policies for sick children and the administration of medication and another was made regarding the system for recording accidents.

Since then the setting has taken appropriate action, thus improving the safety and welfare of children. Parents now provide written consent should they wish staff to administer any medication and are informed of the procedures regarding actions to take should their child become sick or infectious. Accident records are now signed by parents, thus keeping them kept fully up-to-date of any incidences that may affect their children's well-being.

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 complaint 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):

- obtain written parental consent for the transporting of children in a vehicle
- make available to the staff, details relating to those infectious diseases that require reporting and the actions that will be taken should an allegation be made against themselves or a volunteer.

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