

Jumping Jack's Out of School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY244960
Inspection date	10 May 2007
Inspector	Julie Firth
Setting Address	Church Lane Community Centre, Church Lane, Lowton, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 2RZ
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Registered person	Beverley Stradins
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?

Jumping Jacks was registered in 2003. It operates from the hall within the community centre in Lowton. It serves the local area and collects children from schools in the Lowton and Golborne area. The club is registered for 32 children aged from three to eight years and there are currently 49 children on roll. The Out of School Club supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

Children attend for a variety of sessions. Sessions are from 15.00 until 18.00 during term times and from 09.00 until 18.00 during school holidays. Four staff work with the children all of whom hold suitable early years or play work qualifications to National Vocational Qualification Level 3. The club receive support from Sure Start.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from illness and infection because the staff conscientiously follow current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines. The staff organise good

rotas for the cleaning of the premise and a cleaner is employed for the centre. Children clearly understand simple good health and hygiene practices and they all wash their hands before handling food and after using the bathroom. Staff are suitably qualified in first aid to enable them to appropriately treat children with minor injuries. They do obtain prior consent from parents for emergency advice and treatment.

Daily indoor activities help children develop physical skills and promote a healthy lifestyle. They make good use of the hall and children gain confidence, test out their coordination and organisation skills in team games, such as football and dodge ball.

Children understand the importance of having regular drinks to stay hydrated, as they help themselves to the jugs of water available at each session. A member of staff has undertaken a food hygiene certificate. Children enjoy nutritious snacks and written menus indicate children have a good choice of fresh foods and fruit. Snack times are happy social occasions where children relax and enjoy each other's company. Good manners are promoted. During the school holidays packed lunches are stored appropriately. The children's dietary requirements are met well as staff work with parents in finding out their child's requirements and respectfully follow these.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and stimulating environment. The hall is organised appropriately to allow children to access different play areas. They confidently choose from a wide range of toys and equipment that are age appropriate. They develop independence as equipment is easily accessed on low tables, open cupboards or at floor level around the room. Children confidently ask for toys that are not out. The resources are clean, safe and well maintained to ensure the children's safety. There is a policy in place indicating a procedure for broken toys and equipment.

Children move around in a safe environment where risks are identified and minimised. The manager liaises with the committee and responds quickly to any maintenance requests. All checks are carried out on the building and facilities. Children are aware of the procedures when leaving their classrooms and there are procedures for signing children in and out of the club. They have opportunities to practise fire drills, reminding them what to do in the event of a fire or an emergency evacuation. Staff complete daily risk assessments to monitor the safety of the premises and are vigilant when out on trips and collecting the children from the various schools. Activities are planned to further enhance children's knowledge of road safety, such as involving the children in role and craft play when crossing the road and visits from the police and the community officers.

Children's welfare is protected because staff have a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. A detailed child protection policy is in place in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children talk positively about their experiences in the club and have fun mixing with children from different schools. There are good relationships throughout the setting producing a harmonious and happy environment. This increases the children's sense of trust and friendships.

Older children take delight in looking after younger children, helping them to settle and become confident. Regular new themes are introduced and children are motivated in a good balance of adult and child led opportunities. Activities in the club follow a weekly programme and staff support children well introducing new ideas, such as organising a theme on bullying. They encourage children to read for pleasure and choose from a good range of books in the quiet area. Children are asked to contribute to the well devised plans which are evaluated after the sessions. This ensures that children take part in activities that they enjoy.

Children are engaged in designing pop up cards, musical instruments and book marks, they have fun making hand sewn purses, valentine cards and decorating biscuits. Children also participate in alphabet bingo, dressing up and a treasure hunt. A frieze created by the children indicates a theme on 'What do you like to do at the club?'. All board games encourage the taking of turns. They speak of taking part in a production of the musical Grease. Trips are planned to places of interest during the school holidays, such as the library and the park. A recent trip to a bird's park is extended to talking about animals and birds when they arrive back in the club. Children talk positively about their experiences and objects when their parents come to pick them up and to visitors.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well behaved and they are aware that certain rules and respect are required to maintain a safe and fair environment where they can play happily and have fun. The staff are good role models, they speak calmly and quietly to the children and have good strategies in place for achieving appropriate behaviour. Staff promote children's self-esteem and confidence as they praise their efforts and a reward system is in place which encourages children to share and play well together.

Children celebrate a wide range of cultural festivals and access a good selection of resources that reflect equality of opportunity. Staff skilfully raise children's awareness of similarities and differences with their society as they openly discuss how children of all gender can join in the activities

Staff have built up good relationships with parents and create a welcoming atmosphere. Positive feedback from parents indicates good care is provided and parents state that the wealth of activities has further contributed to making the club more stimulating for children. A notice board and a newly introduced brochure displays information about day to day events and policies within the club. They receive verbal feedback on a daily basis about their child's activities. A written complaints procedure is in place, and any complaints will be dealt with appropriately. This effective communication between parents and staff provides consistency for children in their care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The manager is committed to improving the quality of care she provides for the children. She meets regularly with the staff and the registered person who work well as a team. They are all aware of the children's individual needs and any recent developments. Effective recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are well protected and cared for by staff. Staff are qualified, enthusiastic and organise areas of play before the children enter the club. The

accommodation is arranged to ensure the children experience different types of activities. They follow a structured routine and there is a comprehensive operational plan in place, demonstrating that staff regard the well-being of all children.

Comprehensive policies are in place, which contributes to the safety and well-being of children being cared for. These are shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. However, the complaints procedure does need to be updated in line with current legislation and parents do not give written permission for children to be transported in a vehicle. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

On the last inspection the group were asked to improve documentation by making sure that a procedure is available for allegations of abuse made against staff, that records demonstrate the safe use of vehicles and parental signatures are obtained to give consent for the transportation of children and accidents. They were also asked to improve planning systems so that children are provided with activities that extend their experiences, challenge and stimulate them. They were asked to review the numbers and deployment of staff to ensure that children are fully supported, improve the organisation of school collection and welcoming arrangements and review the planning of the physical environment to provide designated areas for different types of play.

The management and staff have worked hard to improve the care provided for children. The child protection policy now includes a procedure for allegations made against staff, documents indicate that the vehicles are safe and parents do sign for accidents that happen in the club. Parents are aware of their children travelling to the club in a vehicle but still do not give written permission.

Effective planning is now in place and children are provided with stimulating activities. Staff support the children well and they ensure the room is organised before the children enter. The hall is bright, welcoming and newly decorated. Physical activity now takes place in the large hall and the staff provide designated areas for exercise and team games.

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 by 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):

- update the complaints procedure in line with current legislation; obtain written permission from parents when transporting children in a vehicle.

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