

# Oatlands Funclub

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY266683
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Anne Rice
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<b>Registered person</b>	Funcare Ltd
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Oatlands Funclub is a privately owned organisation and has been registered since July 2003. It provides before and after school care and holiday care. The club runs from Oatlands Infant School on the outskirts of Harrogate. Children have the use of a large main hall, a classroom, the library and an adjoining arts and craft room. Children have access to the school playground and garden area for outdoor play. The club serves the children of the school and nearby Oatlands Junior School. The before and after school club is open from 07.30 until 08.55 and 15.15 until 18.30 and serves the children of Oatlands schools. During the holidays the club is open from 07.30 until 18.30 and serves the children of the wider community. There are presently 140 children on roll aged four to 11 years. Children attend on a full and part time basis. There are currently eight full time and one part time members of staff. Five members of staff hold relevant early years qualifications.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the staff act as good role models, cleaning the tables with anti-bacterial spray and promoting good hand washing practices. As a result, the children wash their hands not just as a matter of routine, but also because they appreciate the reasons why this is important. Children explain very clearly the risk of infection if hand washing is neglected.

Healthy eating is encouraged as the children enjoy different fruits, such as peaches and oranges for snacks. The menu, which rotates and includes for example, savoury biscuits and cheese, rice cakes and pitta bread, is responsive to the children's wishes. Carefully recorded instructions about dietary requirements are also followed so that children may eat comfortably at snack time with no risk to their health. The children stay hydrated as they have constant access to water, which they independently pour from a jug when they are thirsty.

There are comprehensive policies in place to protect the children's health, such as with regard to sickness, medication and accidents. These policies are implemented and available for parents to view. Any relevant medical information is obtained from parents and noted so that the children's care is promoted. The children are afforded further protection as most of the staff have qualifications in first aid and have ready access to a well stocked first aid kit.

The children have ample opportunities for physical development, as they gain fresh air and exercise when they play outside in the fully enclosed and gated school playground. Here they particularly enjoy skipping and racquet games.

### Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The club operates from the school premises, which are clean, warm and well-maintained. The main focus of activities is the hall where tables are attractively laid out with an interesting range of games and activities for the children to select. In addition, the club has the use of the library, an arts and crafts room, a classroom and the outdoor playground and garden area.

Children independently choose from a good range of age-appropriate toys, books, games, equipment and activities. The staff rotate the resources so that children are interested and stimulated, but above all have fun. Indoors, the children enjoy, for example, drawing, construction toys and board games, whilst outside they enthusiastically skip and play tennis.

Staff have a good awareness of potential hazards and take positive steps to promote safety. They double check, for instance, that the playground gates are locked before allowing the children out to play. Furthermore, when children leave at the end of the session, they are effectively signed out twice, once by their parents and once by the staff. Outdoors, the staff are diligent in their supervision of the children. Being attentive to the needs of different aged children, they cordon off an area of the playground where older children may play more boisterous games, reserving a quieter area for the younger children. Children contribute to their own safety, for example, they develop road sense as they walk with staff from the Junior school to the Infants school to attend the provision. In addition, they practise the fire escape plan, although rather infrequently. Regular risk assessments and the strict adherence to parental instructions about the collection of children act as added safeguards.

The children's welfare is protected as the staff have a good awareness of child protection procedures and knowledge of their responsibilities towards the children in their care. The induction process ensures that staff are familiar with the child protection policy, which is very clear and includes what to do if allegations are made against members of staff. This is reinforced by the staff's attendance on child protection training courses organised by the local authority.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the provision, which provides a good broad range of activities with appeal for all ages, from art and craft activities to painting, board games, puzzles, books and outdoor ball games, such as football and basketball. The children are friendly and confident, able to assert their own needs and preferences by independently choosing activities which interest them. There is a balanced mix of activities for all ages throughout the session, with opportunities for play that is, for instance, noisy and quiet, active and more passive, individual and group, indoor and outdoor.

Activities are child-led, but structured and the session begins with a story, which gives the children time to wind down after the school day. This is followed by snacks and then outdoor play for all, after which children choose free play either indoors or outdoors. This system is facilitated by the presently generous staffing ratio, which allows sufficient staff to closely supervise the outdoor and indoor areas at the same time. Children's views and contributions are valued as the provision actively seeks their opinions about, for instance, rules of behaviour and suggested activities. In the holidays, this is particularly evident when children express interest in participating in an exciting range of activities, from bowling and visiting the cinema, to ceramic painting, making milkshakes and visiting museums.

Children relate well to their peers and the staff, chatting happily about their holidays and countries they have visited. They respect the staff, who assist the children with their activities, by for instance, holding large skipping ropes, whilst the children skilfully jump over the rope. Other staff help the children with their games of football and basketball. Creativity is fostered as the children decorate the provisions store cupboards with multi-coloured hand and foot prints. The children produce pictures, although this creativity is not acknowledged as none of these are displayed in the setting. They develop skills, for instance, when they play board games with their friends. Overall, the children are happy and busily engaged throughout the session.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Staff act as positive role models in promoting the equal opportunities policy, which ensures that children are valued and treated as individuals. Children receive praise for their achievements, such as walking sensibly along the road to the club. The staff listen to the children and respond positively to their ideas, for instance, they adopt their suggestions for snack time menus. As a result, children build confidence and self-esteem. Staff provide opportunities for children to learn about the diversity of the world through books, toys and activities, including the celebration of various festivals, such as Divali. In the summer, there are plans for some Chinese and Japanese parents to visit the club to talk about their heritage and culture and to cook fish free sushi.

The staff are currently supporting a number of children with behavioural and learning difficulties and in accordance with good practice liaise regularly with the parents and relevant professionals. A trained Special Educational Needs Coordinator adds to the expertise and assures the care of children with learning difficulties and disabilities. The staff are sensitive to the needs of all the children and are committed to ensuring that they gain as much as they can from the provision.

The provision operates a comprehensive behaviour management policy, which focuses on positive techniques. Staff work in partnership with parents and professionals to encourage self-respect, self-discipline and honesty. Children receive praise and are given stickers for good behaviour, with explanations for unacceptable behaviour. In response, children behave well, play cooperatively and use good manners.

The staff spend time developing good relationships with the children and parents. Consequently, there is a high level of parental satisfaction with the provision, as parents recognise that their children are gaining a lot of enjoyment from the club and they feel confident about approaching the staff. There is a good level of information exchange, both verbal and written and parents suggestions are always welcome. Furthermore, parents may access the provision's policies at any time and are aware of the complaints procedure, which is prominently displayed on the notice board. To date, there have been no complaints.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The ultimate responsibility for the club rests with the Funcare company, which delegates the day to day management to a suitably qualified manager. All staff are employed following thorough recruitment procedures and undertake a programme of induction, which prepares them well for the job. Continuity is promoted as any staff absences are covered by other staff within the company. Children benefit from the considerable expertise of the staff, as most have recognised child care qualifications, whilst some are pursuing more advanced courses.

The environment is well organised with good deployment of staff, who work well together as a team, knowing their roles and responsibilities. Consequently, children are effectively supported and encouraged, which helps them to feel secure and confident. Additional reassurance is provided as all the required documentation, such as emergency contact and registration details is in place, easily accessible and stored securely. The registration certificate is clearly displayed on the notice board for parents to view. Comprehensive policies and procedures further contribute to the efficient and safe management of the setting. Added to this is the enthusiasm and dedication of the very capable manager, who was appointed in Autumn 2006, and is committed to positively developing the provision.

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 include health and safety and child protection procedures in the staff's induction training, to organise space effectively, to ensure that resources reflect positive images of disability and to include an anti bullying procedure in the Behaviour Management Strategy. In addition, the provision was asked to provide an incident book.

Since the last inspection the provision ensures that staff become familiar with all the relevant policies, including health, safety and child protection procedures, as part of their initial induction training. More effective use of the outdoor space is achieved as the provision has two distinct areas of the playground, one for the older more boisterous children and one for the younger children. The provision has acquired resources which promote positive images of disability and has established an incident book. The Behaviour Management Strategy now includes the procedures to follow in the event of bullying.

### **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 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):

- improve the frequency of fire drills
- display children's art work to acknowledge their creativity and achievements.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)