

Jolly Days Link Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY269155
Inspection date	11 April 2007
Inspector	Susan Patricia Birkenhead
Setting Address	Broomfields Community Junior School, Bridge Lane, Appleton, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 3AH
Telephone number	01925 265297
E-mail	
Registered person	Jayne Ruth Dickens
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?

Jolly Days Link Club opened in 2003 and is one of two out of school clubs owned by the private provider. It operates from three rooms in a mobile building, sited in the grounds of Broomfield Junior School in the Appleton area of Warrington.

A maximum of 44 children may attend the link club at any one time. The link club is open each week day from 07.45 to 09.00 and 15.20 to 18.00 during term time, plus 07.45 to 18.00 during school holidays. Children have access to the extensive school grounds for outdoor play. There are currently 68 children from four to eight years on roll. The club welcomes children who have learning difficulties and disabilities.

The link club employs 16 staff, of these eight hold appropriate qualifications and two are working towards a qualification. The setting is a member of '4children'.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection by keeping the premises clean, not caring for children when they are ill and handling food safely. The children recognise the importance of washing their hands before meals and after certain activities and know that they do this 'to get rid of germs, which could make them poorly'. Staff are familiar with the correct procedures for the administration of medication, which they demonstrate through discussion, however, some detail is not recorded on the forms they use. A good supply of materials are in place for the treating of minor injuries and the majority of the staff employed have completed first aid training, therefore, protecting children's welfare to a good standard.

Children have regular daily access to the extensive outdoor play areas where they enjoy taking part in numerous activities to promote their physical development and skills extremely well. For example, they take part in the organised sports day, use the fixed climbing apparatus under close supervision and select from the wide range of resources independently. Their physical development is further promoted indoors, where children can play table tennis and dance to music. Opportunities are available to promote the children's finer skills, which include the sewing activities and manipulating the play dough. The effective wall display reflects the importance of physical exercise and children learn how this contributes to their well-being.

Children enjoy healthy snacks and drinks provided during 'high tea', which are reflected in the written menus in place and include a wide variety of fresh fruit, vegetables, crumpets and toast. Children have independent access to drinks during their stay and confidently help themselves to the jug of juice or water accessible within the room. During the holidays parents provide the children's packed lunches, which are stored in accordance with food safety regulations. Meal times are staggered during term time, however, during school holidays the children are accommodated in one area and sit down to eat lunch at the same time. Due to the number of children present, this approach resulted in some disruption. All staff are positively made aware of any specific dietary requirements of the children attending through the positive procedures in place.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment that is warm, welcoming and very suitable for purpose. The three rooms are set out before the children's arrival creating different areas of interest and play opportunities, which allow them to move about freely and independently under close supervision. As a result, children are able to relax and play in comfort within a well organised setting. The notice boards are used to display information for parents, the staff qualifications and the registration details. The good level of children's artwork on display contributes to the children's sense of belonging.

A wide range of play materials is accessible to children within the club to support children's activities and enjoyment well. Children can select items of their choice, which are easily accessible due to the organised storage. The safety of the play materials is checked daily as the staff are setting out the room and tidying away. Children are encouraged to bring damaged items to the attention of the staff, therefore, contributing to the children's protection at all times.

Children stay safe because of the effective procedures followed, good use of equipment is in place to minimise risks, such as 'finger safe guards' fitted to the doors and wall heaters are protected. The staff are efficient in making children aware of potential hazards and the consequences of their actions. They respect the rules in place for using the climbing apparatus outdoors and respect the boundaries established. Children learn how to keep themselves safe as they practise road safety during outings and are alerted to 'stranger danger'. They complete the good system in place, which monitors when they leave the rooms to go out to play and later return. They practise fire evacuation regularly and the details are recorded. In addition, daily checks are made of areas children have access to ensure risks are minimised.

Children's welfare is positively safeguarded because the designated staff appointed have completed the necessary child protection training. They clearly demonstrate through discussion the signs to look for and the procedures followed should they have concerns about a child in their care. Child protection is high on the agenda at staff meetings to ensure all staff are familiar with the procedures. The written policy contains the necessary information and parents receive a copy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very secured and settled within the link club because of the very relaxed and friendly environment created. They develop very good relationships with the staff and positive friendships with other children. Some children attend at times their parents are not working because they enjoy attending. Children engage in an extremely good range of activities and opportunities through play and show interest in all they do. They compete at table football and express themselves well through dance as they make up routines, which they share and practise with others. Children access the extensive outdoor area at very regular periods throughout the school holidays and take part in trips out to places of interest locally, under close supervision. They can access board games to play with staff, sit quietly and consult with the staff when writing poems by choice. They have many worthwhile opportunities to develop their drama skills as they take part in role playing 'Pirates and Princesses' or simply use their imagination to make their own dens using the fabric available. Therefore, aspects to promote all areas of their development, which encourage children to have fun and enjoy the company of their peers are extensive.

Children's play and activities are extremely well organised following the structured planning in place, which incorporate the content of art and crafts, outdoor play, the activity tables and the play rooms. In addition, the printed sheets completed reflect the aims of the activity, the content and the risks involved. The positive evaluation of activities reflects how well the children receive them. They have times to relax, watch television or a favourite film and on occasions 'Cinema nights' are arranged. Children have very good opportunities to select and make decisions about their play as well as taking part in a very good range of adult led activities. Children's understanding of the wider world is extremely well promoted through the impressive range of activities completed and documented. Samples of art work previously completed include, the 'Mexican crafts' and the 'Native American dream catchers'. Therefore, children's independence is fostered and they continue their learning of the wider world outside school.

Children are very well supported by the excellent staff interaction and involvement in their play and activities. For example, staff join them in the 'parachute' games to encourage variation to the games they play and have fun. They examine shells and pebbles they collect from the beach

and discuss with children how they can use them creatively. As a result, children show a good level of respect for the adults who care for them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued well as individuals and have equal access to play and activities without stereotyping. A good level of information is recorded to enable staff to meet the individual needs of the children. Children develop their understanding of diversity through the positive approach towards the celebration of festivals, following the cultural calendar throughout the year. The documentation and wall displays provide good evidence of such events, which include Chinese New Year and Easter. Outings to places of interest contribute to the children's awareness of the local environment and the Dental Health department visit the setting to positively raise children's awareness of dental hygiene. Children show support for others because they are actively involved in fundraising events for various charities, such as the Neonatal ward, which they visit to present the money raised. The link club provides an environment of inclusion for all children. They work closely with the parents, outside agencies and through the appointment of key workers, they positively support children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children are polite and behave very well. The staff approach situations calmly and work together effectively to provide a consistent approach to the management of children's behaviour. Children learn about the boundaries established and contribute to the formation of the link club rules displayed to promote ownership. They explore sensitive issues, such as bullying through the planned activities and design the anti-bullying posters, on display. As a result, they learn to show respect and consideration to others. Staff regularly praise the children's good behaviour and they receive certificates in recognition, as a reward. This contributes to building the children's self-esteem and confidence. They play cooperatively and recognise the need to share resources and take turns when playing computer games at restricted intervals.

Children benefit from the open, friendly relationships between parents, carers and staff. This helps to promote continuity of care between home and the link club and establish very good partnership with parents and carers. Parents receive a good level of information regarding the setting because they are initially involved in an induction meeting held with the provider. They receive written policies to take away, and the booklet called 'How to use your club'. In addition, they receive a newsletter each term, which keeps them up to date with changes and events and have opportunities to attend parents' evenings arranged. Parents contribute to the effectiveness of the link club as they complete questionnaires sent out annually and the 'praise and grumbles' forms are readily available for parents and children to complete. Parents interviewed speak positively about the care and stimulation their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

A robust recruitment and selection procedure is followed to ensure children are cared for by suitably qualified and experienced staff. The written policy outlines that adults who have not gone through the vetting procedure do not have unsupervised access to children, which staff confirm through discussion. Newly appointed staff go through a detailed induction and are supported by experienced staff during their probationary period. There are clear systems in place to reflect the staff deployment on a daily basis, therefore, making them aware of their individual roles and responsibilities.

A high ratio of qualified staff, with additional staff in the process of training, are responsible for the children's care. The key worker systems employed enables staff to develop close relationships with children and meet their needs accordingly. As a result of the positive leadership and the effective management of staff employed, their commitment to further training is very good. This is further demonstrated by the very good level of in-house training planned annually. This means that the staff have regular opportunities to develop and extend their knowledge and skills, which effectively benefit the children. The link club operations are regularly evaluated by the registered person and the staff team using the Ofsted self-evaluation form.

All legally required documentation, which contributes to the children's health, safety and well-being is in place. It is reviewed regularly, in the main is shared with parents, is updated at regular intervals and respects confidentiality. However, the current policy and procedures they follow for the reporting and recording of complaints have not been updated following the change in regulations and parents do not acknowledge entry to the medication records by signing against medication administered.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

During the last inspection, two recommendations were raised regarding the risk assessments and identifying possible risks to children and the child protection statement, to incorporate reference to the procedures followed should allegations be made against a member of staff. Since the last inspection, the provider has given attention to the risk assessments in place to ensure they reflect and identify possible risks to children and training is ongoing to ensure regular checks are completed during the sessions. As a result, staff are proactive in the identification of possible risks to children. The child protection policy clearly outlines the procedures followed should allegations be made against a member of staff. To support the steps taken the provider has developed an action plan detailing how the previous recommendations have been addressed following the last inspection.

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

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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):

- review the current arrangements for lunch time during school holidays
- ensure parents acknowledge entry to medication records by signing
- review the existing procedures for reporting and recording of complaints to reflect changes in regulations.

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