

HCEP Candles

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY344461
Inspection date	22 May 2007
Inspector	Julie Morrison
Setting Address	Heighington C of E Primary School, Hopelands, Heighington Village, NEWTON AYCLIFFE, County Durham, DL5 6PH
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Registered person	H CE P Candles
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?

HCEP Candles out of school club is run by Heighington Church of England Primary School. It was registered in 2006 and operates from within the school building. It is situated in the village of Heighington near Darlington. A maximum of 40 children aged under eight years may attend the club at any one time. The club also cares for children aged over eight years. The club is open each weekday from 08.00 to 08.50 and from 15.15 to 18.00 during term time and from 08.00 to 18.00 during the school holidays. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area. The setting is registered to care for 40 children and currently has 18 children under the age of eight years and 43 over the age of eight years on roll. The club supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. The club employs four permanent members of staff and additional casual staff as needed. All permanent staff hold an appropriate childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are supported in staying healthy as the facilities, resources and equipment provided are clean and well maintained. Simple health and hygiene practices are followed by the children,

for example, they wash their hands routinely as they arrive at the club in preparation for snack time and after using the toilet. Tables are cleaned before and after snack and staff preparing the food ensure that they wash their own hands, however, no member of staff holds a current food hygiene certificate. A clear sick child procedure, and the effective recording of emergency contacts, medication permission and accidents, promotes children's health and well-being. However, the out of school club does not have written permission in place to obtain emergency medical treatment.

Children benefit from regular exercise and fresh air, which contributes to their good health and physical development. Staff recognise the children's need to be active and ensure that children are outside as much as possible, providing a wide range of outdoor play opportunities, for example, tennis, cricket, netball and climbing, balancing and exploring the wooden play area. An outdoor reading area, and the use of the library inside ensures that children are able to rest or be active according to their individual needs.

Staff at the club demonstrate a sound understanding of the importance of a healthy diet and children receive an adequate snack of toast, crackers, fruit and juice. However, opportunities to further develop independence and personal skills are limited, as children line up at snack time and there are no opportunities to self-serve. The menu is displayed for parents to see and snack time is a sociable occasion, as staff sit with the children and discuss their day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment, where the risks have been identified and minimised. All visitors are requested to sign in, doors are kept locked at all times and staff carry out visual checks of the play areas prior to the children arriving. Children are signed in and out of the club and staff have effective procedures in place to ensure only named persons collect the children. Appropriate health and safety checks, for example, fire and electrical equipment are in place and regular fire drills are carried out by the school and the club to ensure that children are familiar with the fire evacuation procedure. Staff maintain close observation of the children at all times, and children are learning to keep themselves safe. For example, they observe agreed boundaries whilst playing outdoors and confidently talk about the whistle system which staff use, ensuring that children stop what they are doing and calmly walk to the nearest member of staff when it is blown. Such procedures help to keep children safe.

Effective procedures to ensure that children remain safe on outings are understood and implemented by staff. Visual and written risk assessments are done prior to visits taking place, consents are in place and staff discuss ground rules with the children. Staff carry emergency contact numbers and first aid kits with them on outings, further safeguarding children. Staff have a comprehensive child protection policy in place and a clear understanding of the signs, symptoms and procedures to follow should they suspect abuse. This further protects children from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident and enjoy their time at the setting. A daily timetable of activities is displayed and children participate in a good range of child-centred and adult-led activities. For example, staff play tennis and cricket with some of the children, whilst others

go off with a clipboard and jar, looking for insects. Plans are flexible and staff acknowledge the wide range of age groups and interests of children attending the club and cater well for them. For example, a good balance of sports equipment and arts and crafts materials are set up outside. Indoors, children can self-select from a range of resources and equipment, including computers, construction, books, games and arts and crafts materials. Children at the holiday club enjoy a wide range of activities, including day trips, visits to the local adventure play park, making cakes and go-karting.

Children have formed positive relationships with the staff and comment that they 'feel safe here, because the staff are so friendly and helpful'. They interact comfortably with staff and each other, talking together about school and what they are doing. Staff listen to the children and respond accordingly, for example, they bring out more resources at the request of the children, or sharing a joke and laughing with the children. As a result, children are happy and settled at the club.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff show a good understanding of equal opportunities and diversity. They plan a suitable range of activities to raise children's awareness of culture and diversity, and complement what they are learning in school. For example, to celebrate the Chinese New Year the children enjoyed dressing up and trying Chinese food and eating with chopsticks. A good selection of resources, including books, dolls, and coloured pencils for different skin tones, further promotes children's awareness of diversity. Staff have experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities and are committed to working with parents and the school to ensure that individual needs are met.

Staff show a good understanding of children's behaviour and this is supported with a written behaviour policy. Children benefit from regular praise and encouragement, and a reward system has been developed in the form of a badge and certificate. Staff set clear boundaries for the children, which they reinforce with gentle reminders, such as not to run, and use age-appropriate language with the children. Children are actively involved in setting the club rules which contributes to their sense of belonging and helps promote good behaviour. Children show regard for others, they share equipment and cooperate with each other, helping one another and drawing pictures for each other.

Parents receive an informative pack prior to their child starting the club, which includes setting information and some relevant policies and procedures, for example, lost and uncollected children. Staff gather relevant information from parents to ensure that individual children's needs can be met, and parents are kept up to date through verbal feedback and information in the school newsletter. A notice board ensures that parents are aware of plans, menus and the complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Secure recruitment and vetting procedures are in place to ensure that children are well protected and cared for by staff with relevant experience, skills and knowledge. Staff have attended some relevant training courses, which enhance personal development and procedures are in place to further develop staff training and qualifications.

Most required documentation is in place and is stored for easy access and with high regard to confidentiality. However, the club shares the school's policies and procedures which do not make reference to HCEP Candles. The setting is well laid out to ensure that children can move around safely and independently and access a wide range of activities and resources. This helps to promote and enhance their confidence and self-esteem. Staff are suitably deployed and benefit from regular team meetings to ensure that children's needs are appropriately met. Clear attendance records are in place for staff, children and visitors, which further supports children's safety.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- ensure a member of staff holds a current food hygiene certificate
- develop opportunities for children to self-serve at snack times
- develop a procedure for requesting consent for emergency medical treatment
- ensure that policies and procedures make reference to HCEP Candles.

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