



Schools Out Club - Truro High School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY281285
Inspection date	02 June 2005
Inspector	Nicola Jayne Pascoe

Setting Address	Truro High School, Falmouth Road, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 2HU
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Registered person	Yvonne Louise Mary Smith
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Schools Out Club at Truro High School is one of a group of privately owned Schools Out clubs. It opened in 2004 and operates from classrooms in Trevean Nursery at Truro High School. It is situated in the city of Truro, Cornwall. A maximum of 20 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 15:15 until 18:00 during term times and from 08:00 until 18:00 during school holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 73 children from 4 to 8 years on roll. Children generally come

from a wide catchment area. The setting currently supports a number of children with special educational needs and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The out of school club employs five staff. Over half the staff hold play work qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. One member of staff is currently working towards a qualification. The setting receives support from Playlines.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health is not safeguarded, as their packed lunches are not stored appropriately. They are kept on the worktop along with coats and bags. The staff explain that the class rooms can get very hot. Children cannot freely access fresh drinking water during the day. They must ask staff for assistance if they are thirsty. However, children do not ask and therefore receive a drink only at set snack and meal times. Most staff hold a basic food hygiene certificate. Children enjoy making iced biscuits, which they eat at snack time with water or orange squash. However, there is no choice from a range of healthy options. There are no children currently attending who have specific dietary requirements. However, staff are not using information on enrolment forms and as a result children's specific dietary needs are not met.

Children benefit from following suitable standards of hygiene practice. They are encouraged to wash their hands before snacks and meals and after playing outdoors. Most staff hold an appropriate first aid certificate. A well stocked first aid kit is available. Parental consent has been obtained to seek emergency medical treatment or advice. Sick children are cared for appropriately, as staff follow a suitable sick child policy. Children benefit from a balanced daily routine, which includes proportionate time for indoor and outdoor physical play and rest. As a result they are able to enjoy fresh air, exercise and rest.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a purpose built nursery unit. Their safety is enhanced due to the staff being able to monitor visitors to the classroom through the vision panel in the door. Children's access to clear floor space is restricted due to the equipment and resources belonging to Trevean nursery remaining in the classroom. Additional resources and equipment are brought in by the out of school club staff at the beginning of the session. As a result, it is a cluttered environment. Children are not always able to use all rooms within the nursery building. For example, the rumpus room is not accessed by children during this half-term holiday. Consequently, staff create alternative areas within the nursery for energetic play. Children's safety is at risk due to staff moving large pieces of furniture.

Children are able to use a sufficient amount of toys and resources. These are checked regularly by staff. As a result they are age appropriate and safe. Children's familiarity with knowing how to safely evacuate the building is not satisfactory. Staff do not arrange a regular practice. Children's safety when going on outings is maintained. Staff follow a suitable outings policy. Staff demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. However, there are no systems available on the premises to record incidents or concerns. A child protection policy is available. However it does not include procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally busy and occupied. They enjoy suitable activities such as craft, card games, colouring, videos and group board games. They play outdoors during the morning using a selection of equipment such as bats and balls, frisbee's and skipping ropes. Young frogs are discovered in the field and children explore and discuss these with staff and other children. Staff support this by playing a 'hungry frog' game when they return indoors. Limited support and encouragement during a planned activity results in some children not fully enjoying and achieving their own creation of pirate faces with biscuits, icing and chocolate decorations.

Children are cared for by a staff team who change regularly. As a result staff do not know children's interests and preferences. Children are not provided with sufficient play opportunities to develop their personal interests.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure in the knowledge that staff are kind and approachable, but have not established strong and trusting relationships. Staff are not familiar with children's individual needs. Their individual abilities are not identified and valued. Although children appear busy and content, they do not engage freely in conversation with adults. Children are not encouraged to develop a sense of responsibility. For example children do not help to serve and clear away at snack time. Children are able to make choices, for example they decide a theme, such as pirates.

Children are not able to display their work. As a result children do not benefit from a sense of pride in sharing their achievements. They are able to use some of the nursery equipment. However, they are confused as they cannot access all equipment as they wish. Children who speak English as an additional language are not well supported. Staff do not liaise effectively with parents to obtain useful information. Children develop their own 'golden rules'. these are not always displayed or referred to. All children are well behaved, considerate and polite. Information is shared verbally with parents at the beginning and end of sessions. Policies can be viewed upon request. The complaints procedure contains sufficient levels of information.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are cared for by suitably qualified and experienced staff. The registered person is able to describe appropriate recruitment and induction procedures for new staff. However, there is no written evidence to show this is implemented. Staff checks are available for some staff to confirm suitability. However, evidence is not available for all staff related to this setting. Children do not benefit from continuity of care, due to the daily change of staff. The times of arrival and departure of children are recorded, but does not show children's ages. Staff do not know the names of all the children. They accept children into the setting who have not been booked in.

Staff do not know who is responsible for specific duties. For example they do not know who is the designated child protection officer or special needs coordinator. Appointed drivers collect children from local schools. Children are on occasion collected late. However, formal agreements with parents to establish who holds responsibility for children at these particular times, have not been obtained. Vehicle documents, such as driver's licence, insurance and MOT certificates, are not available. Staff are not familiar with the documentation or of where it is stored. Not all required documentation is kept, used or made available for inspection. Overall the needs of the children attending are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- develop and implement effective registration systems to ensure that staff are aware of the number and ages children attending in order that individual needs of all children are met.
- ensure children are provided with regular drinks and nutritious food in adequate quantities for their needs. This should comply with their specific dietary requirements.
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

These actions are set out in a ***notice of action to improve*** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk