

Happy Hours

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY224564
Inspection date	22 May 2007
Inspector	Mary Anne Henderson

Setting Address	Hugo Meynell C of E Primary School, Eccleshall Road, Loggerheads, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 4NU
Telephone number	01630 672795
E-mail	
Registered person	Happy Hours
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care, Sessional 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?

Happy Hours is one of five out of school clubs and two nurseries. It opened in 2001 and operates from two rooms in Hugo Meynell Church of England Primary School situated in the village of Loggerheads on the border of Shropshire. A maximum of 52 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 07:30 until 09:00 and from 15:15 until 18:15 during term time. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

A maximum of 52 children from 3 years to 8 years may attend at any one time. There are currently 83 children aged from 3 years to 8 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The club supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are five members of staff working with the children, three of whom hold early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. There are two members of staff working towards an appropriate early years qualification. The club receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a healthy lifestyle. They run around in the playground and play on the adventure equipment using it to practice their climb and balance skills. They also enjoy playing football, bat and ball games and rolling around on the grass with their friends. Staff allow children to choose what they want to do in the outdoor play areas.

The children spend their time in a clean environment. Tables are cleaned by the staff before the children settle for snacks and children know to wash their hands before they eat. To ensure good standards of hygiene for the children, staff wear aprons when preparing snacks. Children's welfare is well maintained because the staff have sought written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice for all children on roll, and all staff are first aid qualified.

Children learn about healthy eating because they have a range of healthy options to choose from. They have snacks of fruit, cheese or ham sandwiches and they have cereal or toast when attending early morning sessions. They also have free access to drinking water because there are drinking fountains outside the classrooms, and they know they can access this at any time. All allergies and food preferences are recorded and made known to all staff.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is well maintained. Staff ensure the indoor and outdoor areas are checked before the start of the session and a comprehensive risk assessment format is used to ensure risks are identified and minimised. The children learn about personal safety as they are involved in the evacuation procedures on a regular basis. To ensure children's safety further, there are good security measures in place, including close supervision, entrance door kept locked and the identity of all visitors is scrutinised by the staff.

Premises are very welcoming to parents and the children. There is an informative notice board in the foyer which ensures parents access important information. For example, policies, procedures, insurance and registration certificates are all displayed. There is also a range of children's work on display. The children use a range of equipment and resources suitable to their age and stage of development. This includes classroom tables and chairs and a range of outdoor equipment which is kept in the shed.

Children's welfare is promoted well because the staff are trained in child protection. The staff know what to do and who to contact should there be a concern about a child in their care and they have the current Safeguarding Children's Board contact numbers on file. To ensure parents are kept informed there is a comprehensive child protection policy in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy outdoor play with their friends as they run around in the fresh air. They are involved in activities set out for them including board games, marble run, drawing and portrait activities. Children do not have free access to the range of resources and activities because they are kept in the adjacent store room/office. For example, the children do not always have

free access to glue, junk, home corner, small world resources and paints. Also, children are not effectively involved in their own planning. This compromises their welfare.

The staff spend much of their time working directly with the children. They plan and support children with the activities and join in with their games. Staff are warm and approachable and talk to children as they play. They sit and chat to children about their day at school during snacks and as they play in the outdoor play ground.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

There are positive relationships between the parents and staff. Parents access an informative notice board which outlines planning, policies and a range of relevant group information. Parents receive periodic newsletters from management to ensure they are kept up-to-date with current regulations, requirements and fundraising information.

Children are well behaved and have regard for one another. For example, they share and turn-take with the equipment and resources available to them. The children are praised throughout the session by the staff as they help to tidy up and put equipment away. There is an informative behaviour management policy in place for the parents which outlines procedures to be used in the event of bullying. Staff talk to the parents at pick up time about what the children have been doing during the session.

Children are provided with a range of activities to explore festivals. For example, they have explored St Georges Day, the Queens Birthday, Divvali and Chinese New Year. However, children's access to resources and toys that positively promote diversity and anti-discrimination is limited. This compromises their welfare. There are strategies in place to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. This includes working close with parents and other professionals to ensure continuity and the inclusion of all children on roll.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare is well maintained because there are robust vetting procedures in place. This includes ensuring reference checks are followed up on all new staff and close supervision until all checks are satisfactory. Staff are qualified and experienced and there is good interaction between the staff and the children. Staff provide the children with a warm and welcoming environment where they can relax and play with their friends.

Registers show the arrival and departure times of children, staff and visitors to the group. Ratios meet requirements and good use is made of all available indoor and outdoor space to meet the children's needs. There is a comprehensive operational plan in place which outlines the routines, records and policies of the setting. Policies available to parents include, behaviour management, health and safety and the complaints procedure. Records on the children are kept beyond the minimum time requirement as outlined by Ofsted and all records and documentation are made available for inspection. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection the group was asked to address one recommendation. They were asked to ensure that the record of medicines administered to children is countersigned

by parents to acknowledge the entry. The group addressed this by ensuring all parents signed to acknowledge that the staff had administered the child's medication. Parents are now better informed and the child's welfare is now maintained.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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):

- promote children's welfare ensuring they have as much choice as possible and effectively involve them in planning their own activities
- actively promote anti-discrimination providing a range of resources that positively reflects diversity

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