

Croft School Funclub

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY269164
Inspection date	26 June 2007
Inspector	Linda Janet Witts

Setting Address	Churchill Way, Painswick, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 6RQ
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Registered person	Croft School Funclub
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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?

Croft School Funclub opened in 2003. It operates from the Croft Primary School in Painswick, a rural town situated between Gloucester and Stroud. The club serves the local community and is managed by a voluntary committee.

The club provides out-of-school care for 30 children aged between 4 and 11 years old. There are currently 90 children on the roll. The club welcomes children with special needs. Sessions are from 15.15 until 17.00 from Monday to Friday, during school terms.

The club uses the school hall and two classrooms and also has the use of the school outdoor play areas. A team of three staff are employed and the playleader holds a level three early years qualification. The group receives support from the Early Years Childcare Services.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

The health of children who require medication is compromised. Parental permission to administer medication, such as inhalers, is not obtained; required medication is not easily accessible to club staff, and no system is in place for maintaining a record of medication administered.

In the event of a child sustaining a minor injury, there is a member of staff present who has completed up-to-date first aid training. A fully stocked first aid kit is available and records of any accidents are recorded and shared with parents. Staff are not aware of the requirement to notify the regulator in the event of a serious accident. Parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice is routinely requested.

The school facilities in which children play are clean and well maintained. Children routinely cleanse their hands before they eat and are independent in their personal hygiene.

Children enjoy the healthy snacks provided. They are offered a snack of fruit of different varieties and toast with a choice of toppings. Children help themselves to drinks of squash, as they wish.

Children can enjoy outdoor play during the session. They go out in groups, as they wish. Those that choose to go out are able to enjoy fresh air and exercise. The outdoor play area is extensive. Here children can run freely, play ball games, such as rounders, football and golf. They can also use large equipment such as 'Giant Connect Four'. Outdoors the children are very energetic and many report that they enjoy playing outdoors. When outdoors children will often link up with others and engage in role play utilising sports equipment as props. For example, chasing one another as monsters and superheroes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

The children's indoor play environment is generally safe and entry to the club is monitored to ensure that children are protected from unwanted visitors. Children could however leave the premises via fire exit doors. The outside play space is extensive and not secure. Although staff are vigilant in their supervision it is possible that children could leave unsupervised. A thorough risk assessment of the area has not been carried out. A missing child procedure is in place but the group does not have a procedure to follow in the event of a child left uncollected.

Children are helped to keep themselves safe by the staff who encourage children to consider the consequences of actions that may compromise their safety, such as climbing on chairs. Children are familiar with school emergency evacuation procedures but have not practised evacuation from the club. Fire drills have not been undertaken and no consideration has been given as to whether the school procedures will work in practise for the club, who may need to evacuate, in winter months during hours of darkness.

Children are able to choose their own activities from a range of safe and suitable toys, games and equipment. Some activities are selected by staff prior to the session and set out in a way that allows children to move safely between activities and to access resources safely. Additional resources are not all easily accessible to children, but they are able to ask for different play items, stored in the storage cupboard and shed.

The children's welfare is supported by the staff's satisfactory knowledge of child protection issues. Staff are aware of possible signs of abuse and appropriate action to take, should they have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children of all ages are seen to be happy at the club. They speak highly of the staff and say that they enjoy attending. They can engage in the planned creative activity and offer their ideas for additional activities. Many children opt to play outdoors, weather permitting.

The creative activities enable children to experiment with a range of techniques and materials. For example, children draw out designs on material with fabric dye. Some create wall and door hangings with written messages and patterns. They then enhance their work using glitter, sprinkled over carefully spread glue.

The children are very imaginative. This is evident as they play together both indoors and outdoors. They take on roles and utilise available resources as props. For example, a child asks for the material box and then selects pieces to use as slings, for her imaginary arm injury. Children often build dens. For example, they position safety mats on their side and fasten them together to form a walled enclosure. Within the den they use chairs to create beds and home furniture. They then engage in imaginary play as cats, dogs and the pets' owners, basing much of their play on their first-hand experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children's parents provide information about their children's individual needs but this is not always acted upon in accordance with club policy. Written information is produced and shared with parents about the provision but this does not include a clear complaints procedure. Parents are greeted by the friendly staff who give parents time to talk to them, as they wish.

Children have positive relationships with the staff and settle quickly when they arrive at the club. Children are keen to share their news with the adults, who listen with interest. Children of different ages play well together. Older children will offer assistance to younger children. The club welcomes all children, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities.

The children are well behaved and independent. They follow instructions well, share and take-turns. Staff are good role models for children. Children who have minor disagreements with one another are encouraged to resolve conflict, calmly by staff. Children receive praise and encouragement from staff, as they go about their play. Children make choices in their play and play an active role in tidying up, after snack time and activities.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The committee has failed to notify the regulator of significant changes in the leadership of the club. As a result the leader is not suitably approved for the role. A system is in place to ensure that criminal records checks are obtained for new staff and the leader is aware of the need to ensure that those who are not vetted do not have unsupervised access to children. There is no system in place to ensure the ongoing suitability of staff.

Documentation does not meet the requirements under the National Standards. Some of the group policies and procedures lack information and not all required records are maintained. Records of children's attendance are accurately maintained and parents routinely sign their children out when they collect them. A clear record of staff and visitors' attendance is not kept.

The provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. Although children enjoy their time at the club, insufficient attention is given to the regulatory requirements. Children's health and safety is compromised by the lack of security and risk assessment, lack of consideration given to emergency procedures and arrangements for the administering of medication.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection actions were raised and recommendations for improvement made. The actions were to devise appropriate procedures to be followed in the event of a child being uncollected, and to devise and implement a system for recording parent's consent and the administration of medication. The recommendations were to review the organisation and presentation of activities to ensure that children can readily access a variety of play opportunities. Secondly, to extend the complaints procedure to include details of the regulator. Thirdly, to extend the child protection statement to include details of procedures to be followed in the event of any concerns being raised, or an allegation being made against a member of staff.

The group has not taken any action in response to the actions raised. As a result the health and safety of children is compromised.

In response to the recommendations made the group has considered how activities are offered. Children can now access resources for themselves from the hall storage cupboard and ask for resources that they know are stored in the club's shed. A creative activity is set out for children. A procedure for complaints against staff has been written but this is not specifically linked to the group's child protection policy. The complaint's procedure now includes a contact telephone number for the regulator but lacks detail about the handling of complaints and an address for the regulator.

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 action 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 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:

- Devise and implement a system for recording parents' consent and the administration of medication.
- carry out a thorough risk assessment of both the indoor and outdoor play environments to ensure that children are safe and secure
- develop a procedure to be followed in the event of a child not being collected
- ensure that there is an effective emergency evacuation procedure and that fire drills are carried out periodically
- keep a record of staff attendance, on a daily basis, showing hours of attendance
- notify Ofsted of any changes in manager
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint and develop a system to record complaints

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 *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