

MEATH GREEN OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122704
Inspection date	05 December 2007
Inspector	June Fielden
Setting Address	Meath Green Infant School, Kiln Lane, Horley, Surrey, RH6 8JG
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Registered person	Meath Green Out of School Childcare
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?

Meath Green Out of School Childcare is run by a committee. It incorporates Meath Green after school club and Meath Green holiday club. The holiday club was not observed during this inspection. It opened in 1999 and operates from a large school hall, with an adjoining classroom and toilet facilities at Meath Green Infants School, in Horley, Surrey. A maximum of 32 children may attend the setting at any one time. The after school club opens Monday to Friday, during term time from 15:05 to 17:45. The holiday club opens during all school holidays from 08:00 to 17:45. Children are able to attend for a variety of sessions, either on a full time or part time basis. Children who do not attend either of the Meath Green schools are able to attend the holiday club. All children share access to a large playground and grassed area for outdoor play.

There are currently 50 children aged from four to eight years on roll. Older children are also able to attend and are included in the numbers. Children come from a wide catchment area.

The setting employs 11 members of staff. Of these three hold appropriate early years qualifications and three are working towards a qualification. The club is a member of the Kids Club Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. The groups accident and medication records are well completed, and written permission is obtained for the emergency medical treatment of children. The same records are used by both the out of school club and the holiday club. There are effective hygiene routines in place to maintain children's good health. Children wash their hands before they eat and use liquid soap and paper towels to avoid the risk of cross-contamination. Staff clean the tables children eat from with antibacterial cleaner, to prevent the spread of infection.

Children are provided with healthy snacks at the after school club, including toast, fruit and vegetables. They are offered water or juice to drink with their snack, and a water fountain is available for them to use at other times, to ensure they are not thirsty. Staff have a good understanding of children's nutritional needs, and written information relating to the holiday club shows that children are asked to bring their own lunch. Parents are requested to ensure these include appropriate contents, such as ice packs to keep food cool, and to remind children not to swap the contents of their lunch, as children with allergies attend the setting.

Children attending both the after school club and the holiday club have the use of the school's large playground, reception class play area and an adventure playground to enable them to exercise. The adventure playground has slides and bridges for children to climb, slide and scramble on. The setting has a selection of toys and games for children to use outside to help them to keep fit. If children are tired they can sit out quietly for a while in order to rest.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to a broad range of stimulating toys and equipment that is appropriate for the age and ability of all that attend the setting. They move around freely in the large school hall, where space is well organised by staff to provide areas for a variety of different activities. There are effective storage facilities for the groups equipment, both in the hall and the outdoor play area.

There are efficient measures in place to ensure children's safety while they are at the setting. Staff complete daily risk assessment sheets and toys are checked as they are put out, to see that they are in good condition. Fire drills are completed regularly, to ensure children's wellbeing, and a record of these is kept. Parental permission is obtained for staff to collect children from the Junior school site and take them to the after school club. However, there is not currently a secure system in place for the transfer of children into the care of after school club staff at the end of the school day, which impacts on their welfare.

Children are protected from harm, as staff have all attended training in child protection and have an effective understanding of this subject. Staff know the procedure to follow if abuse is suspected, and are aware of how to report their concerns to the appropriate authority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are greeted in a friendly manner by after school club staff. Staff participate in the games with the children, to ensure that they use them correctly, and to extend their play; for example, a member of staff played a word building game with one child, encouraging them to use the sounds made by the different letters to form their words correctly. Children develop a sense of rhyme and rhythm as they play with the musical instruments that are available to them. A member of staff joined one of the children using the instruments, and they took turns to tap out a tune while they were engaged in conversation. Younger children are provided with assistance from staff as they use the art and craft materials to design their own pictures and collages.

Plans for the holiday club show that children are provided with the opportunity to join in an extensive range of organised activities, including swimming and parachute games during the first part of the day. In the afternoons they participate in tasks such as painting, cooking or playing in the sand. Staff also arrange for visits by skilled people, to provide children with instruction in subjects such as golf or art.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are all treated with equal concern by staff. They obtain appropriate details from parents to enable them to meet children's needs when they register their child at the setting. There is an effective selection of toys to develop children's knowledge of different cultures. However, they lack resources to raise their awareness of disability. Although the after school club do not currently have any children on roll with learning difficulties and disabilities, they have a good understanding of how to cater for their specific requirements.

Staff keep parents well informed about the setting, including their policies and procedures, which are shown to them when they register their child. The folder containing these documents is always left out for them to read. There is a welcome pack for parents, to inform them how the setting is organised. Staff speak to parents daily, when children are collected. There is a parents notice board which displays all the necessary information the group need to make available to them. Parents are happy with the care provided at both the after school club and the holiday club, and believe that they receive effective feedback from staff.

Staff promote positive behaviour through praise and are always happy and cheerful with children. They are consistent in their approach to behaviour issues and tell children when they have acted in an inappropriate manner. If children continue to misbehave they are required to sit out from the group for a short time. Staff discuss challenging behaviour with parents and work with them to promote continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's safety is assured when visitors are present, as they sign in and out of the setting, and are never left on their own with children. Several members of staff have undertaken training since the last inspection, in order to improve their knowledge and enhance the level of care they provide for children. There is an effective recruitment and induction procedure to ensure that the setting has appropriate staff in place. Regular staff meetings are held, where information

is exchanged. The supervisor is aware of her responsibilities for the staff, planning and the day to day running of both the after school club and the holiday club. The committee provide the group with support, handle parent enquiries and the paperwork. Children's times of arrival and departure are recorded, and the certificate of registration is displayed, to ensure parents are aware of the conditions under which the group operates. Children's records are stored securely, and are available to a child's parents on request. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection report recommended that the setting ensure all policy documents clearly relate to out of school care and are read and implemented by staff. Also, that they devise a policy relating to the club's management of children with special educational needs, including premises accessibility. In addition it was recommended that the setting devise and implement written policies for the exclusion of sick and infectious children and a procedure for managing children's health needs.

The setting now has policies relating to sick children, and the management of children with learning difficulties and disabilities, including premises accessibility, to ensure their welfare. The policy documents in place are all specific to the setting, are read by staff when employment commences, and again whenever they are reviewed. The supervisor is responsible for their implementation, to ensure children's wellbeing.

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

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):

- liaise with junior school staff to ensure that a secure system is in place for the transfer of children into the care of after school club staff at the end of the school day
- obtain resources to promote children's understanding of disabilities.

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