

Wellington After School Care

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 116242 |
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| Inspector | Christine Bonnett |
| Setting Address | Sutton Lane, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 4LB |
| Telephone number | 0208 572 1697 |
| E-mail | |
| Registered person | Wellington After School Care |
| 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?

Wellington After School Care is managed by a voluntary management committee, made up of parents of children who are attending or have attended the school. It opened in 1993 and operates from the library and main hall within Wellington Primary School in Hounslow, in the London borough of Hounslow. A maximum of 30 children may attend the breakfast club and after school at any one time. The clubs run each weekday during term time. The breakfast club is open from 08:00 to 09:00, and the after school club is open from 15:20 to 17:30. Places are available for children attending Wellington Primary and Junior Schools only. Children have access to the school playground for outdoor play.

There are currently 20 children aged from four years to under eight years on roll. Places are available for children up to 11 years of age. Not all children attend every day.

The nursery employs two staff, both of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted as the rooms used by the club are kept very clean. The suitably equipped cloakrooms allow children to maintain good personal hygiene practices to prevent the risk of cross infection. For example, liquid soap and warm air dryers are available to use. The children understand that germs can cause illness and, therefore, why it is important to wash their hands at appropriate times.

Children's health is further promoted as children are offered nutritious snacks that take account of their individual dietary needs. Cereal and toast are provided for the children attending the breakfast club. Fresh fruit and raw vegetables are included on the after school club menu, along with toast and sandwiches. Drinks are readily available at all times throughout the session. Children sit together around the table at snack time and chat to their friends and staff. This helps to create a relaxed and social atmosphere. However, children's independence is not promoted at snack time. Each child is given a plate of food that has been prepared by the staff. Consequently, children do not participate in preparing their own snack, or have a choice about the quantity they are given.

Children enjoy regular opportunities for physical play. The school hall is available for soft-ball games, and the playground provides ample space for playing tennis, football and generally running around at the end of a school day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The school library provides a warm and cosy environment for the clubs. In addition, children benefit from having access to the main school hall in which to enjoy more active play. A suitable range of activities and play resources are available for the children, such as board games and art materials. All furniture and equipment used by the clubs is clean and in good condition.

Children's safety is important to staff. Risk assessments are carried out, and routine safety checks to ensure children are not exposed to danger. Fire drills are held at least once a term to make sure children leave the premises quickly and safely in the event of an emergency. Security within the after school club is good. Staff escort the children to the cloakrooms and back and supervise them closely in the playground to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

Children's wellbeing is further safeguarded because the staff have a good understanding of child protection matters. They know the possible signs of child abuse, and the procedure for reporting concerns to ensure children are protected. However, the child protection policy and procedure does not include the measures to be taken in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed at the after school club. Activities for them to enjoy are planned by the staff. However, if the children make a request to do something else, their wishes are respected and the programme for the session is adapted accordingly. Children play particularly

enthusiastically with art and craft resources, and explore their own creativity. Children also enjoy being in each other's company and demonstrate this by playing cooperatively together. They concentrate for extended periods of time playing board games with their friends. However, they are also quite content to sit by themselves and read a book.

Children benefit from the close relationship they have with staff. The interaction is warm and friendly. Staff laugh and have fun with them as well as giving support and encouragement when needed. For example, playing snakes and ladders with a child and explaining the rules. Consequently, children are confident to approach them and express their needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are respected and valued as individuals. Attention is given equally to each child in a calm and relaxed environment. Children also enjoy being with familiar and trusted adults. The calm atmosphere contributes greatly towards the children's good behaviour. They understand what is expected of them, and follow the "code of good behaviour" that has been devised. For example, they are kind to each other, and look after the toys and equipment.

Children attending the clubs come from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds. They are developing an understanding of the customs and traditions of others as they acknowledge, through art work and projects, different faith festivals, such as Diwali and Christmas.

Staff recognise that working in partnership with parents is essential to the wellbeing of the child. Parents are greeted warmly by staff, and have the opportunity to share any relevant information about their child with them to ensure their needs are met. In addition, information about the clubs is available for parents to consult on the notice board. This includes a selection of policies and the procedure to follow to raise a concern about the clubs. However, the complaints procedure contains out-of-date contact information for Ofsted.

Although there are no children currently attending who have learning difficulties or disabilities, systems are in place to ensure they would be well supported. Staff liaise with the school and the child's parents to learn how they could best meet his or her needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from attending an after school club that is well organised to meet their needs at the end of the school day. A balance of quiet and energetic activities are provided to suit everyone attending. Children's welfare is safeguarded as robust recruitment procedures are in place to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. Staff have a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities and focus on the needs of the children. The manager and her staff attend courses and workshops regularly to enhance their skills and knowledge for the benefit of the children.

Children's well-being is further promoted as all required documentation is maintained, and policies and procedures are used effectively by staff to successfully promote positive outcomes for children. The positive working relationship the groups enjoy with the parents help to make children feel comfortable and at ease and enjoy their time at the club. Consequently, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the clubs were required to improve the standard of safety for children by conducting risk assessments, and identifying how any potential hazards would be minimized. Risk assessments are now conducted on all areas of the premises used by the clubs, and safety check regularly carried out to ensure children are not exposed to harm. The groups have also improved their accident recording procedure. Full details are now recorded, and how the accident was managed. Staff hold first aid certificates to support children's welfare. In addition, the management of the clubs have reviewed their policies and procedures, they are now easier to consult, and readily available at inspection.

A further requirement made at the last inspection was to devise a statement to demonstrate how children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities would be supported at the group. This has now been drawn-up, and is in-line with current legislation.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- encourage children to participate in the preparation of snacks to promote their independence
- ensure the complaints procedure contains up-to-date contact information for Ofsted
- ensure the child protection procedure includes the procedure to follow in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against the manager or member of staff.

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