

The Afterschool Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	218367
Inspection date	25 September 2007
Inspector	Jacqueline Mason

Setting Address	Bishop Lonsdale Primary School, Eccleshall, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST21 6AU
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Registered person	Leslie James Byatt
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 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?

The After School Club is privately owned and opened in 1997. It operates from a classroom located within Bishop Lonsdale Primary School. The setting has use of one classroom and toilet facilities. There is an enclosed playground for outside play. The setting serves the local community.

There are currently 43 children on roll. The setting is open each weekday during term-time. Sessions are from 07.45 to 09.00 and 15.30 to 17.50. Children are able to attend for a variety of sessions.

There are currently two members of staff working with the children. Of these, one is qualified to level three.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health has the potential to be compromised because there is no member of staff with a first aid qualification and the setting does not have written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Satisfactory procedures are in place for sick children to ensure that the best interests of all children are met if they are unwell. It is a policy of the setting that medicines are not administered to children. However, there are satisfactory arrangements in place that are followed if children have long-term medication needs such as inhalers for asthma. Children are learning about the importance of washing their hands to maintain good health and regular routines such as all children washing their hands before snack time, help to reinforce this. Good arrangements are in place to promote good health such as wiping tables with an anti-bacterial spray before food is served.

Satisfactory arrangements are in place to offer a varied diet and encourage children to make choices about what they eat. Children are offered toast and a drink at breakfast and sandwiches, crisps and cakes are brought in for snack time for the after school session. There are plans in place to introduce fresh fruit to encourage a healthier diet. Children have free access to fresh drinking water, orange and blackcurrant squash. They are able to help themselves to a drink at any time and this helps ensure that they do not become thirsty.

Children attending the setting enjoy active physical play. During daylight hours children are encouraged to play outdoors. In the winter time children are encouraged to be outdoors until it gets dark. They enjoy playing football, tennis and other ball games and organise tournaments such as rugby and football.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff have a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of child protection issues to ensure that the welfare of children is safeguarded. Staff are able to recognise some signs and symptoms of abuse and are aware of the procedures that they should follow to report a concern. The registered person has completed basic child protection training. Security of the premises is satisfactory and the outside door is kept locked when children are not playing outdoors. Staff record the times that children arrive and depart to ensure that all children are accounted for at all times.

Children are cared for in a friendly environment in which they can relax and be confident. Some artwork is displayed to help them develop a sense of belonging. The room used by the provision is used by the school during the daytime but the setting has sole use of it during operational hours. There is a varied range of toys and equipment that are clean, safe and suitable for their purpose. They are stored adequately to enable children to have free access to them.

Emergency evacuation procedures are good to ensure that children are protected in the event of needing to evacuate the premises in an emergency. Children know what to do to keep themselves safe. For example, they know that a whistle is blown to gain their attention and know the assembly point in the school playground.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

A consistent routine is followed that helps children to be settled and confident. They know, for example, that after school younger children are collected from the corridor by staff and meet in the room used by the setting. Children know of the requirement to wait on the carpeted area until all of the children are present before they go to the bathroom to wash their hands for snack. However, the beginning of the session is disorganised and children lack a sense of purpose as they do not have anything to keep them occupied. Instead they stand or sit around waiting for routines to be implemented. This results in children becoming bored and disruptive which is not typical of the behaviour in the setting as they are generally well behaved.

Children enjoy attending the setting and have fun there. Some children particularly enjoy playing outdoors and this is encouraged as much as possible. When outdoors, children are able to select from a range of equipment such as bats and balls and enjoy organising tournaments and games. When indoors, children are able to choose what activity they want to do and have free access to stored toys. Some activities are set out for children as a suggestion of what is available to them but there is no requirement for them to take part in what is out. Art and craft activities are planned occasionally although this tends to be more during the winter months when it is too dark to play outside.

Staff have good relationships with the children and value what they say and do. They are actively engaged in the children's play and sit with them to play board games and persist in activities that they find difficult. They encourage conversation, chatting with the children about their home lives and what they have been doing at school. Staff take a good interest in what the children say. They recognise when children are not interested in an activity of their choosing and change the activity for another.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Staff have friendly relationships with parents and carers. Some policies and procedures are displayed on a notice board that is available to them and others are available on request. A complaints policy is in place although the contact details for Ofsted are out of date. The setting does not keep a record of complaints made by parents and carers. However, parents and carers are kept informed about their child and the provision through daily discussion when they collect their child.

Staff have a satisfactory understanding of equal opportunities issues. Activities to promote positive images of culture and disability are not in place and resources are limited. However, children are encouraged to take part in all activities regardless of gender, for example girls as well as boys are encouraged to play football. There are currently no children on roll with disabilities and/or learning difficulties but there are adequate arrangements in place to welcome with additional needs into the setting and to ensure they are fully included in all activities.

Staff manage children's behaviour satisfactorily to help them to learn right from wrong and to play harmoniously together. Strategies to manage unwanted behaviour are appropriate to the age and level of understanding of the children attending. Good behaviour is valued and praised. They are encouraged to share and take turns with popular resources such as the entertainment system and are praised when they do. Children are mostly well behaved and staff act as positive role models to help children develop good self-esteem and respect for the needs of others.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

All necessary policies and procedures, necessary for the safe and efficient running of the setting are in place although some such as the complaints policy, are not reviewed regularly to ensure that they are still accurate. Policies and procedures are shared with parents and carers to help them make informed choices about their children's care. Documentation relating to children and staff is stored securely to ensure that confidentiality is maintained. Most necessary information is maintained.

Ratios of adults to children are maintained adequately to ensure that children have sufficient adult support to meet their needs. Staff have good relationships with the children and this helps children to be settled and confident. A daily register is accurately maintained of the hours of attendance of staff and children although a record is not kept of visitors to the setting. Adequate recruitment and selection procedures are in place to help make sure that staff are suitable to work with children. Suitability checks, including police checks and references are in place. Children are appropriately protected from persons who have not undergone background checks. Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was required to devise medication records and ensure that they are available if needed. It was also required that staff details are available for inspection at all times.

The setting has a policy of not administering medication to children. However, it is accepted that children requiring long-term medication such as inhalers, may need them to be administered during the out of school sessions. The setting has, therefore, devised medication forms that can be used for this purpose.

Since the last inspection there has been a change of staff at the setting. All necessary information relating to new staff members is in place to ensure that suitability is verified.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted received concerns relating to the suitability of the Registered Person and members of staff at the setting. The complainant also raised concerns stating that children were allowed to undertake inappropriate activities for their age range. In addition, concerns were also raised relating to animals having access to the setting.

These concerns relate to National Standard 1 – Suitable Person; National Standard 3 – Care, Learning and Play; National Standard 5 – Equipment and National Standard 7 – Hygiene.

As a result of these concerns, a referral was made to an outside agency, who confirmed that Ofsted could deal with the concerns.

An unannounced visit was made to the setting. During this visit, the Childcare Inspector made observations of the setting; reviewed documentation and interviewed staff members. As a result of the information received and evidence gathered, 3 actions were set under National Standard 1 – Suitable Person and National Standard 5 – Equipment.

All the information received and evidence gathered has been reviewed by a Childcare Inspector Team Manager.

Ofsted can confirm that the Registered Person remains qualified for registration.

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:

- make sure enough staff are trained in first aid to ensure that at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate is on the premises at any one time
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- keep a record of complaints relating to the national standards and any action taken.

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