

# Lytham CE Primary School After School Care Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY330302
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Lesley Sharples
<b>Setting Address</b>	Lytham C of E Primary School, Park View Road, Lytham, Lancashire, FY8 4HA
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<b>Registered person</b>	Lytham CE Primary School After School Care Club
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Lytham CE Primary School After School Care Club has been registered since September 2006. The registered provider is the committee. It is situated near the centre of Lytham and the club operates from within the school hall. There is an outdoor area adjacent to the hall.

Registration is for a total of 16 children from four to eight years and older children also attend. Currently there are 36 children on roll of whom 19 are under eight years. The club is open each weekday from 15.30 to 17.30 during term time. The setting supports a number of children with learning difficulties.

There is a staff team of five who work on a rota system, with the manager working each session. Three staff hold appropriate child care qualifications. Advice, support and training is gained from the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are learning effectively about being healthy because they understand the importance of regular hand washing and are looked after in a clean environment. This helps prevent the spread of infection and contributes to their good health. Children's health is further protected because some staff hold first aid certificates, in line with current guidance. This means they can offer advice and support in case of accidents or illness and accident recording has improved. A first aid box is also readily available.

Children have their health and dietary requirements met because staff use information from parents effectively to meet their individual needs. This means that children's dietary requirements and preferences are adhered to at all times. Children are fully involved in contributing their ideas for snacks, in their preparation, setting the tables and serving it. They enjoy a healthy selection of snacks, which include fruit in various forms and have continuous access to drinking water. Children are able to choose when they want to have their snack and display their own cards which they have designed, on a board to show staff that they have had something to eat and drink. This promotes children's good understanding of healthy eating and aids the development of both physical and mental growth.

Children actively participate in physical exercise and now have continuous opportunities for outdoor play. They are free to choose what they want to do. Staff facilitate this well by providing some of their own equipment and children are also able to access other resources from the reception class. However, this means that the out of school provision for outdoor activities is limited. Staff have a sound knowledge of health and safety practice and fully supervise children when they are outdoors, but there is little shade available to protect children from the sun, when using the adjacent play area. Children thoroughly enjoy vigorous play, consequently spending less time playing electronic games, which further promotes their health and well-being and is a significant improvement in practice.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

The setting is welcoming to children as they are greeted individually upon entering the school hall. The club's identity is increasing as more wall space is used for art work and this helps with a sense of belonging to their club. The setting is prepared with tables and mats so that children can decide for themselves what they wish to get out. Resources are clearly labelled and stored for easy access and this promotes free choice well. Children are able to move freely as there is plenty of space between activities. Limited access through the school hall, by other persons, means that children have reduced disruption to their play environment.

Children play in a safe environment where daily risk assessments are completed to assure this is maintained. All staff are aware of potential hazards now and take appropriate steps to keep children free from harm. Children develop a good understanding of procedures for keeping safe because they practise the emergency evacuation procedures each term and a record is held by staff on the risk assessment file. Premises are kept secure and access is only gained by being 'buzzed' into the setting from the hall. Visitors sign in and everyone is accounted for on the premises at all times. The collection of children is fully monitored by only allowing children

to leave with those persons known to staff and authorised by parents. Alternative arrangements include thorough procedures, such as verifying with parents first and the use of a password.

Children's safety and welfare is further assured as staff clearly understand the procedures for recording and reporting any concerns relating to child protection. The designated person has undertaken recent training and demonstrates knowledge and awareness of a range of types of abuse and neglect. The child protection statement includes relevant telephone numbers, procedures if an allegation is made against a member of staff and up to date information regarding the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Staff also have easy access to the government guidance 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children fully benefit from having their own ideas planned and prepared by staff. They make full use of a suggestion box made available to them for this purpose. Therefore, they are involved and have a significant voice and influence in what occurs in their after school club sessions. This means that children enjoy and achieve in a fun way. Some planning is designed by staff but the emphasis is on what children want to do. There is a good balance of both quiet and vigorous play, such as table snooker, floor toys and construction, a television programme being watched by one child, book area, as well as outdoor play. Staff offer time for homework should any children wish to do this and plan focussed activities including art and crafts. Choice and variety capture children's interest, for example, threading beads and creating jewellery. This provides prolonged enjoyment for two children, who thoroughly enjoy these particular opportunities.

Children are looked after by staff who are approachable and friendly. They initiate their own play ideas as well as enjoying activities with a member of staff. All children are seen to be happy and engaged in activities which they enjoy. Staff show genuine care and warmth towards the children, they support their play without interfering, consequently they feel a sense of it being very much their club. They develop good self-esteem as they decide for themselves, enjoy social interaction and make friends and are free to play alone or with others. Staff use their skills and experience to manage this area of development well and consequently children fully benefit from this enabling environment.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with opportunities to learn and develop awareness of others. The equal opportunities policy is understood and implemented by staff and shared with parents. The setting is committed to helping to provide equality of opportunity for all children and their families. Children are encouraged to participate in all activities and they have numerous resources which reflect diversity. They also learn about others when playing a 'world game' whereby they land on a country when the music stops and pretend they are from there. Children's individual needs are met, especially when they are new to the club. There is a buddy system in place to help them gain a sense of belonging, and as a result staff ensure children settle and are treated with equal concern and respect.

Children take responsibility for their own behaviour because they are involved in defining their boundaries. They are all very well behaved as they have plenty of interest in the activities and

experiences provided, which are well matched to children's needs to provide a suitable level of challenge and enjoyment. Positive interactions from staff promote children's self-esteem. Children receive ongoing praise and encouragement in a calm and respectful manner. Strategies involve talking about any unwanted behaviour, and as a result children learn right from wrong. Staff are aware of the guidance relating to physical restraint and the importance of recording and informing parents should it ever be used.

Partnership with parents is encouraged by sharing the policies and procedures, being available for discussion and being kept up to date through newsletters and notices. Parents speak well of the club and how much their children enjoy coming and do not want to leave to go home. Younger siblings are already looking forward to commencing and spend a little time playing whilst parents speak with staff.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The adult to child ratio positively supports children's care, learning and play. Space is well organised to maximise opportunities for all round development. Staff are deployed effectively to contribute and promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and ability to take an active part in the setting. The staff team, most of whom hold relevant early years qualifications, fully understand their roles and responsibilities. They work well together and this means that children are safe, well cared for and involved in meaningful activities. There are now individual staff files holding evidence of suitability and the new manager is developing practice by arranging for appraisals in the near future. Staff training is identified and attended, such as updating first aid training. A communication book effectively ensures all staff are aware of any information or issues, as some work on different days.

A significant development within the setting is the documentation which now fully meets requirements. Policies and procedures have all been reviewed and renewed to comply with changes to guidance and consequently they reflect these. The new manager has worked hard to achieve this and ensures the staff team also understand them. All documentation is well organised, maintained up to date and stored to ensure confidentiality. For example, all children's records hold relevant information so that staff can meet individual needs. This contributes to the efficient operation of the setting and meets regulatory requirements.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection there were a number of actions to be met in order to meet the National Standards. These related to documentation, children's safety and well-being and updating policies and procedures.

Documentation now records staff hours of attendance and details of all children looked after. Children have better provision, should they wish to rest with the use of bean bags and blankets. Their safety and well-being has improved because daily risk assessments for both indoors and outside have been implemented and identified hazards fully attended to. All policies and procedures have been completely revised and include all required information in relation to child protection and complaints, as well as procedures regarding uncollected and missing children. All staff have attended child protection training and have been made fully aware of the procedures relating to concerns as well as all the other policies. Records are all retained on

site and readily accessible for inspection because they are stored confidentially in a locked cupboard within the setting.

By addressing and implementing all the actions, the provision meets the requirements and impacts significantly on the improved safety and care of children attending the after school club, as well as the updated knowledge and training of staff who look after them.

### **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):

- increase resources to provide wider opportunities for outdoor experiences and protection in hot weather.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)