

Bengeo Time Out Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 123977

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Inspector Jo Rowley

Setting Address Bengeo Primary School, The Avenue, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG14 3DX

Telephone number 07939 149168

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Registered person Bengeo Playgroup

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?

Bengeo Time Out Club opened in 1997. It operates from the dining room, school hall, library, music/breakfast room and lobby of Bengeo JMI School in Bengeo. Children attend from the junior and infants side of the school only. The club operates Monday to Friday, term time only and sessions are from 08:00 until 08:55 and 15:15 until 18:00.

There are currently 48 children from four to 11 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions and the setting are able to support children with Learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Six staff work with the children, three of which are have a Play Work qualification to NVQ level 2 or above and two staff are currently working towards a recognised Play Work qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted because staff follow appropriate health and hygiene routines, policies and procedures and ensure that these are consistently applied such as, wiping down

tables before and after children have eaten. The children are encouraged to maintain good hygiene practices such as, using a wipe to clean their hands before eating. Individual children's health and dietary needs are known because the setting regularly asks parents and keeps relevant records on site which are regularly updated. Staff are aware of the children's specific needs and most staff hold an appropriate first aid qualification. However, not all accident records are signed by parents and this potentially affects children's welfare.

Children are offered a wide variety of food at tea time which is freshly prepared and provides them with a balanced diet of nutritious food. Children choose from crackers, pitta bread or sliced bread, they eat coleslaw, humus and fresh fruit and vegetables. They eat their meals together as this is recognised as a social time where they can talk to their friends and staff. Drinking water is available throughout the session so children are able to independently help themselves. There are sound opportunities for children to enjoy physical activities by accessing the large secured outside play area, they play cricket, use hoops and enjoy games such as, tennis with effective staff interaction.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well maintained environment, the areas used are clean and welcoming. Equipment is in a suitable condition, offering age appropriate resources which the children can self-select. Staff use specific equipment to ensure that children are kept safe such as, a mobile phone, walkie-talkies and a secure alarm system on the main entrance. Staff are vigilant and manage potential hazards to children well, for example, ensuring that children are always accounted for as they choose to play inside or outside. Staff and children talk about staying safe, they practise the evacuation procedure regularly and the children are aware that when outside if the whistler blows they must get ready to go inside.

Children use child size furniture and are consistently reminded about keeping themselves safe as staff ask them to follow rules such as, not running inside and being careful when they use the outside apparatus. Children's welfare is generally protected as the setting has in place relevant policies and procedures. Most staff have completed child protection training and the leader has completed further training for designated persons, ensuring that she cascades information to the other members of staff. However, staff have a limited awareness of the procedures to be followed in line with the current legislation and consequently concerns are not recorded appropriately, therefore, children's welfare is potentially affected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enthusiastically join in with the activities that the club offers. There is a wide range of resources such as, art and craft materials, construction, games and imaginative resources such as, hand puppets, alongside regular planned activities. Children form strong friendships with other children in their age group, they are kind to each other and interact appropriately with staff. Children are involved in a range of activities such as, building treasure chests out of recycled materials and shell necklaces, out of shells collected from a beach, which supports their development and learning. Staff actively join in with cricket games and spinning hoops whilst outside, as the children happily cheer them on and thrive on the interaction.

Children often initiate their own play and create their own art work as the club offers children access to pencils, glue and collage materials. Special themed events offer an opportunity for staff and children to join in together. For example, the club recently celebrated Independence Day, staff dressed up as cowboys and encouraged the children to join in with the different craft activities offered. Children's imagination is fully encouraged, for example, a group of children make up their own play called 'The squirrel, rabbit, bear and the dog'. They work out the script together, create a scene and then act out their parts to the other children and staff. Everyone respectfully listens to the children and at the end they clap and cheer telling the group 'Well done, that was great'.

Children are happy and settled, they enjoy their time at the after school club. They are keen to take part in the activities and play opportunities provided and are confident in their relationships with each other and staff. Children are secure and demonstrate a sense of trust as they confidently initiate conversations with the staff and turn to them for support where required, for example, one child wants to do some knitting but requires a member of staff to help her get started, the staff member happily does this, showing the child how to do this.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children say that they enjoy coming to the club because they enjoy the activities that are offered. They show their respect and appreciation of the staff by being polite and regularly using their manners. For example, this is shown by children asking if they can leave the table after they have eaten and always asking staff before visiting the toilet. Children's achievements are celebrated, as the setting displays their art work for parents and visitors to see. All staff are positive with the children and consistently praise and encourage them throughout the session such as, 'Well done' and 'That was kind of you'. All children, regardless of their background or disability are welcomed in to the club and staff ensure that they are able to meet the needs of all children attending where possible. There are suggestion boxes out for children and parents to use and previously there have been suggestions made for different foods and activities to be provided. Staff are proactive in listening to children and parents and have recently made changes at snack time to accommodate this.

Children have awareness of the club rules and behave well because staff are consistent in their approach, using gentle reminders such as, children not running inside the club. If staff want the children's full attention at any time they put their hands up in the air, children very quickly respond to this by putting their hands up as they stop talking and staff praise them for this. The staff have friendly relationships with parents and time is made to greet them at the beginning and end of each session. The club is responsive to the needs and views of parents and they are always encouraged to speak to staff to discuss their child's time at the club. Parents are given information about whom to approach if they are unhappy about any aspect of the club and they are aware of the club complaints procedure which is clearly displayed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall, children's needs are met. Their safety is generally promoted by the efficient organisation of the setting. Records, policies and procedures are kept on site and available for scrutiny at inspection time. All policies and procedures are linked to the National Standards and are shared with staff at their induction and then regularly at staff meetings. Children's care and welfare

are promoted through the staff's practical knowledge and daily implementation of these policies and procedures.

Staff work very well as a team and have experience of working with children of differing ages and abilities, they are a supportive group who are committed to providing a safe and enjoyable club where children can feel secure and happy. Inductions and appraisals are completed on a regular basis and staff are consistently looking at their different training needs to improve their knowledge and understanding. Children's records are kept up to date and contain all the relevant information that is required, enabling staff to provide appropriate care and promote children's welfare. There is an area where the staff certificates are displayed along with the public liability certificate and the registration certificate.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the breakfast and after school club agreed to develop the club policies, with particular reference to the lost and uncollected child policies, and ensure that parents were made aware of these. All the club policies have been reviewed and updated and staff have ensured that parents are aware of this. There is a comprehensive lost/uncollected child policy in place which is shared with parents.

The breakfast club agreed to ensure that the registered numbers for children under eight is not exceeded. The staff assisting at the breakfast club are committed to meeting ratios, they ensure that they do not exceed the amount that they are registered for. The breakfast and after school club agreed to ensure that the registration system recorded the hours of attendance for children and staff. The daily register records the hours of attendance for children, staff and visitors, therefore their safety and welfare are protected.

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):

- ensure that the accident record is consistently signed by parents

- ensure that the child protection procedures are known to and understood by all staff, in order to fully protect children.

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