



Meersbrook Park After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300821
Inspection date	23 May 2005
Inspector	Trudy Scott
Setting Address	The Pavillion, Meersbrook Park Road, Sheffield, S8 9FP
Telephone number	0114 2736366 (Between 3pm and 6 pm)
E-mail	
Registered person	Meersbrook Park After School Club
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Meersbrook Park After School Club opened in 1995 and is owned and run by a voluntary management committee. The club is located in Meersbrook Park Community Pavilion, in Meersbrook, a residential area to the south of Sheffield. Children are accommodated in two rooms and have use of toilet and kitchen facilities. A fully enclosed area is available for outdoor play. The club has sole use of the premises while it is operating. It serves children who attend Meersbrook Bank and Carfield Primary schools. Children are collected by staff and escorted to the facility on foot.

The club is open five days a week, from 15:00 to 18:00, during school term times. Care is provided for a maximum of 28 children at any one time. Places are offered for children from 4 to 11 years. Currently there are 56 children on roll and of these, 18 are under 8 years. The club supports a number of children with special needs.

Three members of staff work with the children, all of whom hold or are working towards a relevant qualification in childcare. The club receives support from Sheffield Out of School Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy physical exercise and learn about the importance of activity in keeping healthy as they join in free-play and organised activities in the club's outdoor area. For example they play team games such as cricket which help them develop a positive attitude towards exercise. They are mainly independent in self-care skills and receive support from staff, who remind them about the importance of good hygiene practice, such as hand washing before meals. Children are gaining an understanding of the value of good nutrition as they make choices from a range of healthy snacks, including a variety of fruit and vegetables. However, they gain less understanding of the importance of regular drinks to maintain their health as drinking water is not well promoted as a healthy option.

Children are generally well protected from illness and infection because staff follow the club's health and hygiene procedures and keep up to date with medical information regarding infectious diseases.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and confident in the club environment and independently access a range of suitable toys and play materials. They move freely, inside and outside, appropriately supervised by staff who are deployed to keep an eye on all areas while respecting children's growing independence and the need for privacy. Children are learning to keep themselves safe because staff involve them in discussions about safe practice. For example staff teach children road safety when walking to the club from school to the club.

There are a number of measures in the club that help keep children safe, such as a secure entry system, vigilantly monitored by staff and procedures for the safe collection of children. Staff have just started conducting risk assessment on some areas of provision, which contributes to the safety of children, but this is not yet fully comprehensive and so does not ensure all potential hazards are minimised.

Children's welfare in the club is safeguarded because staff have sound understanding of child protection procedures and members of staff hold current first

aid certificates.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic and self-assured in the club because staff create a welcoming, friendly environment where children feel at home. They enjoy their time at the end of the school day when they can be active or rest according to their needs. For example some children enjoy listening to music and looking at books, while others actively participate in outdoor games or role play. They make choices about their play as they select activities and resources from the good range provided. Their interest and imagination is captured in stimulating activities, such as making 'Star Wars' models from recycled items or practising aromatherapy.

Children are well-supported by staff, who observe them as they play and know when to involve themselves in children's activities and when to encourage their independence. Children feel good about themselves because staff show interest in what they do and say by talking and listening to them, asking questions and offering suggestions to help them develop their ideas.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the club because staff take time to get to know them and respond sensitively to their individual needs. They show a sense of belonging as they greet friends and familiar adults eagerly when they arrive and enjoy good relationships with staff and with each other. Children frequently voice their opinions and listen respectfully as others make their feelings known. Children's confidence and self-esteem is encouraged by staff, who consult them about decisions in the club. For example they contribute to planning discussions and also complete questionnaires where they give their opinions on the club and suggest future developments.

Children behave well as they know what is expected of them. Staff provide clear explanations and support children in managing their behaviour by planning activities where they learn to co-operate and take turns, such as using the computer and playing team games. Children with special needs are well-supported and fully included in the club's activities.

Staff and parents have warm and friendly relationships. Parents are made to feel welcome and talk informally with staff about their children's activities on a regular basis. This helps them share in their children's experience.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The staff team work well together to create a welcoming environment for children and parents. They are knowledgeable about child development and support children's learning and play well by providing a balanced range of activities and experiences, suitable for children of different age and ability.

Organisation is generally effective in meeting children's needs, although the club co-ordinator has limited free time to review policies and procedures with the staff. This means that although acceptable policies and procedures are in place to promote children's well-being they do all not contain up to date information or detail. Policies and procedures are readily available for parents to keep them informed about the service and their children's activities. The setting works co-operatively with parents and other agencies to develop the provision and improve children's care and learning. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection, the co-ordinator and committee have put in place a number of policies and procedures which contribute to the care and welfare of the children and provide information for parents. Of particular importance to children's health and safety has been the development of a policy for lost and uncollected children, a policy for the care of sick children and procedures for recording accidents. The co-ordinator has introduced an induction system to ensure staff are familiar with policies and procedures. Other policies and procedures that have been developed and implemented include a special needs statement, procedures for storing records and a complaints procedure that includes the role of Ofsted.

A system for assessing risks has recently introduced but has not yet been used in all areas of provision. A policy for the administering of medicines is still not in place. Even though the club does not usually administer medicines, procedures are necessary to safeguard children, for example children who self administer inhalers or children requiring medicine for particular conditions.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?
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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):

- develop and implement procedures for the administering of medication to children
- ensure fresh drinking water is available at all times and that children are aware of this
- further develop the risk assessment system to identify and minimise potential hazards in all areas of provision
- review policies and procedures to ensure all necessary detail and current information is included

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk