

St Augustines After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118080
Inspection date	13 September 2007
Inspector	Maria Therese Conroy
Setting Address	Hillcrest Road, Ealing, London, W5 2JL
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Registered person	Florencia Casaccio
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?

St Augustine's After School Club is one of two clubs privately owned by Florencia Casccio. It is situated in a residential area of Ealing, in the London Borough of Ealing accommodated in the building of St Augustine's School. The club serves the local community.

The premises consist of a large playroom and an outside store room. The children use the toilet facilities within the school and have access to the school's outside play areas.

The after school club is opened from 15:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday, term time only. The provision accommodates 38 children from aged four to under eight years old. There are currently eight children under eight years on roll.

The after school club employs a team of four staff, two of whom are qualified with a recognised early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy environment where staff follow good health and hygiene practices, for example they wear gloves when they handle food. All children develop a thorough understanding of personal hygiene as they attend to their own personal needs and wash their hands prior to taking part in cooking activities and before eating food. Children are supervised by the staff when going to the toilet due to the proximity of the toilets to the play area. Effective accident and medication procedures are in place, which ensures that children's well-being is promoted.

Children enjoy taking part in well planned activities that promote healthy eating such as making fruit and vegetable kebabs. Although a varied menu is planned in advance, it is not always followed through by the staff, which means that children sometimes have the same snack throughout the week.

Children take part in enjoyable activities outdoors to encourage their physical development. For example they enjoy skipping, playing tennis, taking part in obstacle courses and dancing competitions.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children have access to a good range of toys and equipment, that are of good quality and age appropriate, they are well presented to encourage children to use them and take part in the activities. The resources are checked every half term to ensure they are suitable and safe for children to use.

The owner has taken some steps to ensure that children play in a safe environment for example; children are well supervised when using the bathroom. However, the outdoor play area used by the children is not totally enclosed as the electronic gates are left open at the end of the school day, putting children's safety at risk.

Although there is a written child protection procedure in place, it does not give clear instructions to be taken if staff had to make a referral or if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff. In addition staff are not secure in their knowledge of child protection procedures and related issues. Therefore children's well-being is not protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are made to feel welcome on arrival due to the well planned environment which is prepared prior to them arriving. Staff greet children on arrival and help the younger ones to settle themselves into an activity. Children are able to make independent choices as to what they want to play with from the good selection of activities available. They can relax with a book or a creative activity or take part in more vigorous play outdoors.

Children enjoy stamping letters and parcels and posting them in the well prepared 'post office' home corner, they create using play dough and design pictures using the good selection of materials that are readily available.

Children take part in a varied range of activities including junk modelling, planting flowers, art competitions and decorating cakes. They are having fun as they dress up, design a poster and pretend to be hairdressers.

Staff interact and are available to give children the support they need to take part in the activities provided. Staff enjoy playing with the children and they provide a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere for children to feel safe and secure.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated equally by staff and their individual needs are known. Their self esteem and confidence is regularly promoted as the staff praise them verbally, display their art work on the notice board and through photographs of them taking part in various activities. Children are learning about a range of cultures through celebrating a variety of festivals such as St Patrick's Day and Chinese New Year. In addition children are aware of the need to help others not so fortunate by being involved in raising funds for a charity for children who have Leukaemia.

Children are well behaved, they are familiar with the routines and the 'ground rules' that have been put together by the children as a group, which enables them to take ownership of the rules. These are displayed in a permanent place so both children and staff can refer to them. Children of all ages play well together and older children are seen to help and support the younger children in the group.

The owner warmly greets each parent/carer and has a genuine interest in the children and their families. Children benefit from the positive relationship between their parents/carers and the staff, which helps them receive consistent care both individually and as a group. Written information is readily available for parents/carers to access when they choose, for example the policies and procedures, the registration certificate and the contact details for the regulator. Parents are kept fully informed of the running of the club through the regular news letters which they receive.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children feel at home and at ease in the welcoming environment with approachable staff, the play area is well organised and set up so when the children arrive it looks welcoming and attractive. Parents are kept informed through the newsletters and by verbal communication which contributes to continuity in the children's care.

Robust recruitment procedures are in place to ensure those working with the children are suitable to do so. A well planned training programme is in place and all staff have been booked onto a variety of training courses, which will enable them to update their knowledge and skills. The required records and majority of policies and procedures which contribute to children's health, safety and welfare are maintained, however the child protection procedure is not clear and staff do not have a full understanding of child protection and related issues.

Although the owner has taken some steps to ensure children's safety indoors, the outdoor play area is not enclosed or secure and therefore children are at risk when using this area.

Overall the setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the out of school club was asked to improve in two areas both of which they have now completed. They were asked to obtain knowledge and understanding of the Government booklet 'what to do if you're worried a child is being abused'. A copy of which is on file and shared with staff to ensure they are familiar with it, however not all staff have a clear understanding of child protection issues. The group were also asked to ensure the arrangements for children's hand washing are improved. They now have their own soap and paper towels to ensure that all children follow good hygiene practices to prevent illness and cross infection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 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

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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:

- ensure there are effective systems for managing access to the premises and that the outdoor play area is fully enclosed and secure.
- ensure that all staff are secure in their knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures and the written procedure is reviewed to give clear steps to be followed in the event of making a child protection referral or dealing with an allegation in relation to a member of staff.

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