

Gerrards Cross After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY254436
Inspection date	27 September 2007
Inspector	Keriann Belcher
Setting Address	Gerrards Cross Youth Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 7AD
Telephone number	01753 892483
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Registered person	Gerrards Cross 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Gerrards Cross After School Club is managed by a voluntary management committee. It opened in September 1997. It operates from the Youth Centre in Gerrards Cross and children attend from Gerrards Cross Church of England Combined School. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time.

Children attend for a variety of sessions. They walk, accompanied by the staff, from the school to the centre. The After school and breakfast club opens every day during school term time. Sessions are from 07.50 until 09.00 and 15:30 until 18:00.

Children have access to a secure outside area for outdoor play.

There are currently 44 children aged from four years to under eight years on roll. Some places are available for children up to 11 years of age. The club supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs four staff, of these three staff hold an appropriate early years qualification.

The club is a member of "4 children".

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are independent and have a good understanding about maintaining their own health. The children recognise the need to follow good personal hygiene routines; for example, they take themselves to the cloakroom, wash and dry their hands before meal times. Children's health is further promoted; as at least one staff member who holds a current first aid qualification is present at every session, which ensures the correct procedures are in place to manage any accidents that may occur.

Children enjoy a nutritious meal each evening that takes account of individual dietary needs. Ample quantities of food are available to ensure children have sufficient to eat. The menu includes a variety of generally healthy foods such as melon, pineapple, hotdogs, potato curls, fish fingers, yoghurt and a variety of sandwiches. Juice and water are offered to drink. A social time is created as children sit together around the tables and talk.

Children are provided with selection of healthy cereals, toast and a milky drink when they attend the breakfast club.

Children make good use of the inside and surrounding outside area that is available for them for physical exercise after a school day. They enjoy making use of footballs, setting up camps, as well as being able to generally run around.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The club rooms are bright and well maintained. Children's safety is important to staff, and they ensure that there are no potential hazards to harm them. Fire drills are held each term to ensure children understand what is expected of them in the event of an emergency. Effective systems are in place for the safe arrival and departure of children, and also to ensure that they can not leave the premises unobserved.

Children have access to a wide range of play equipment that is suitable for all their ages and provides interest and fun at the end of the day. Imaginative play, construction, drawing, board games and pool table are among the variety on offer for children to help themselves to. All the furniture and equipment is clean and in good condition.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as staff understand that their wellbeing is paramount, and any concerns they may have in relation to child protection matters must be reported.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed at the after school club. A balance of quiet and physical activities is available to suit the immediate needs of the children after a school day. Activities are planned according to the children's interest who are attending on that day, but the children also have the freedom of choosing what appeals to them to do, and can help themselves from the very wide variety of resources. Imaginative and physical play is a particular favourite, children have great enjoyment creating camps, tunnels with sheets, blankets and material which they crawl

under and through or playing football. Older children concentrate building mobile phones with construction equipment. The children talk enthusiastically about making puppets and producing a Punch and Judy show or continuing with projects from school. For example, they set up the room as an evacuee centre when they were doing World War 2 as a topic at school.

Children also enjoy being in each other's company and demonstrate this by playing cooperatively together either in an imaginative game of hotels or board game. Overall, children spend their time purposefully as they are able to engage in activities that interest them.

Children benefit from the close relationship they have with staff. The interaction is warm and friendly. Staff laugh and have fun with them as well as giving support and encouragement when needed, for example, helping with homework or explaining the rules of a board game. Consequently, children are confident to approach them and express their needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are able to feel good about themselves and develop their self-image as the staff have a positive attitude towards inclusion and anti-discriminatory practice.

Children's behaviour is very good; they know what is expected of them and are clear about what is right and wrong. Children demonstrate responsible behaviour and confidently take on roles and responsibilities within the group, such as packing away at the end of the session.

Children benefit from friendly informal relationships between staff and parents. Staff value parents' input and invite comments and suggestions encouraging them to be involved in the group. Regular newsletters are sent to parents to ensure they are fully informed about the service. Positive feedback was received from parents, several commented that the children request to come to the club and often don't want to go home as they are involved in activities with their friends.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children develop a secure sense of belonging because the club is well organised and staff work with parents to ensure they have a good knowledge of children's individual needs.

The club has a clear sense of purpose and direction. Staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the club. They are motivated and interested in the children, and have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They are also effectively deployed to support the children and supervise them effectively. In addition, children share good relationships with staff who have been thoroughly vetted for their suitability to work with children. They ensure all children are secure and happily engaged in the activities. Children's health and welfare is promoted as policies and procedures are implemented effectively. All required documentation is maintained. As a result, the club meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provision was asked to ensure that the children's time of departure is recorded. They now record the actual arrival and departure time of all children attending the

breakfast and after school club, this ensures that an accurate account of children's attendance is kept.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 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

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 children have ready access to fresh drinking water

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