

Bude After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY345048
Inspection date	14 August 2007
Inspector	Michael Collins
Setting Address	Bude CP School, Broad Close Hill, Bude, Cornwall, EX23 8EA
Telephone number	07778 553416
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Registered person	Bude 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?

Bude After School Club has been operating since 1997 and has been registered at its current location since 2006. This is one of two registrations held by the organisation, the other being for their term-time scheme which operates from a local church hall. The provision serves the local area and adjacent villages. It operates from the school hall of Bude Community Primary School within the small seaside town of Bude. The group is a registered charity and managed by a board of trustees made up of parents and interested others. There are currently 140 children from four-years-old to 18-years-old on roll. The group are able to support children with learning difficulties and or disabilities. The setting opens from 09.00 to 18.00, Monday to Friday, during school holidays only. There are six members of staff employed to work with the children and four have an appropriate early years qualification. The group also have two volunteers who are used to ensure that ratios are maintained at all times. The group are members of 4children and receive support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children participate in a good range of activities which support their physical development. There is a good amount of space within the setting for children to move around, and good use is made of the outside play areas. Children particularly enjoy trips to the beach for treasure hunts and using the outside space to play football or to play in pairs or small groups.

The staff team actively support and facilitate the children to be healthy and they are clear about their roles and responsibilities in this respect. The children's growing and apparent understanding of why they must wash their hands reduces the risks of cross-contamination. This is ably supported and encouraged by staff who gently remind children about personal hygiene. In addition, to support children to be healthy, there is always a member of staff on duty who holds a recognised first aid qualification. Procedures for contacting parents should a child fall ill are robust and staff ensure they care for the children as their parents would wish.

The setting provides a good range of healthy snacks that appeal to children and meet their dietary requirements. Written records of need are maintained and staff use these to check on individual need. For example, ensuring that vegetarian diets are maintained or avoiding certain foods because of allergies. Children also enjoy a good range of cooking activities which are linked to themes and also support their growing understanding of their own and other cultures. For example, the children have learned how to eat with chopsticks and many eagerly prepare 'authentic' Viking snacks as part of a summer long project. To ensure that children's fluid levels are maintained throughout the day drinking water is available at all times and the children are able to help themselves to this. Also, depending on parental and child choice, a variety of hot and cold drinks are offered during the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a mainly safe and secure environment. The warm and welcoming atmosphere created by staff is supported by displays of children's artwork and other endeavours. This enables adults to further promote children's self esteem and to celebrate their achievements and successes. Mainly good use of risk assessment and vigilant staff supervision minimises risks. However, although the outside play area is fully enclosed, a gate leading to a car park was not secured during use of the area by children, thus placing them at risk and enabling them to leave the premises unsupervised.

An adequate selection of resources is available to the children and they are able to access these without assistance. However, resources which reflect a positive view of the wider world are minimal. Good systems are in place for staff to regularly check and clean equipment, thereby minimising risks and ensuring resources are safe and suitable for use. Children's growing understanding of safety issues is apparent and they are able to explain why they need to be careful with certain equipment, and why they should listen to adult instruction.

The setting promotes and safeguards children's welfare by maintaining the required policies and procedures in place. For example, as well as first aid qualifications, staff hold food hygiene certificates, and also have a good working knowledge of child protection policies and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

A very good selection of activities is planned for the holidays and the children are happy to arrive and settle to their chosen activity quickly. For example, children enjoy trips to a local beach for scavenger hunts, they are designing and building their own 'Viking Long Boat' for participation in the local Bude Carnival. Also they particularly enjoy their own version of the 'World Athletics Championship' throughout the summer period where they split into teams for throwing, track and gymnastic events.

Children actively contribute to the planning and their wishes and desires are listened to and treated seriously. For example, at the beginning of the holiday a flipchart is used for the children to make suggestions of the things they would like to do and this is monitored and 'ticked' when a desire has been fulfilled. If the suggestions made are beyond the scope of the setting this is discussed and explained to the children. Staff are happy to adapt planning to individual need and desire and are keen to ensure that all children have a choice of activity. This flexible approach, which children are aware of, enables them to competently renegotiate activities with the staff, who listen and comply when possible.

Staff have developed genuinely warm and consistent relationships with the children, which promotes the children's sense of trust and well-being. The chatty and friendly atmosphere established by staff results in good adult child interactions and promotes the development of good communication skills. The friendly and relaxed atmosphere created by the team enables children to rest or play as they desire, and make their own choices with confidence. As a result children are happy, content and absorbed in their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The staff warmly welcome both children and parents to the setting. They ensure that they collate and keep written records of individual need, family background, and parental wishes, and act upon these accordingly. The staff actively and positively support all children to participate in activities regardless of ability or background. They encourage and enable all children to integrate, make new friends, and feel 'at home' in the setting, whilst carefully planning and adapting resources and activities to take into account children's individual needs and abilities.

The children respond positively to the clear routines and high expectations of the staff. They play co-operatively in small and large groups, take turns, and share resources appropriately. This is ably supported by the staff team and the person in charge, who set suitable boundaries and communicate these clearly to the children. Staff and children have developed mutually respectful and caring relationships. This helps children to respond positively as their understanding of right and wrong develops appropriately. The children learn about their own and other's cultures through themed activities, thus increasing their understanding of the world around them.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. A prospectus detailing the facilities and services offered is supplied to parents, and regular newsletters are produced, detailing events and forthcoming activities. Parents also have access to the setting's policies and procedures, as these are always available on site. Parents are also encouraged to participate in activities such as the setting's entry into the local Bude Carnival. This welcoming and participatory approach

ensures that parents feel comfortable talking to staff, and also enables them to join in or discuss activities and events with their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting is organised well, with all space available and local amenities being used to their full potential in order to maximise play opportunities for children. For example, plans show good use of local facilities, beaches, and community events such as play activities being organised at the local secondary school. Staff are deployed effectively within the setting and when on outings, and good adult/child ratios are maintained at all times. Under the watchful eyes of the person in charge and her deputy, the staff team work extremely well together, and consistently and appropriately promote children's health, achievement and enjoyment.

The person in charge and deputy work very well together, guiding and supporting a skilled and dedicated staff team. Their commitment to work alongside the management committee, to provide good quality child care for the children attending is apparent and strong. All legally required documentation, which contributes to the children's health, safety and well being is in place and regularly updated. However, although none have yet been administered, the proposed system for recording the administration of medicines could breach confidentiality and is inappropriate. The setting is able to meet the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 outside area is secure before use and that children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised
- ensure further resources which reflect positive images of the wider world are available

- ensure all records support and ensure confidentiality, in particular, ensure the medication record is maintained confidentially.

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