

Schools Out

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	301713
Inspection date	24 September 2007
Inspector	Christine Fraser Turner
Setting Address	Edgeworth Methodist Church, Bolton Road, Edgeworth, Bolton, BL7 0AW
Telephone number	01204 853 799
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Registered person	School's Out Kids Club Ltd
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?

School's Out Kids Club is one of three out of school clubs run by School's Out Kids Club Ltd. It operates from four rooms in Edgeworth Methodist Church in Edgeworth, Bolton and was registered in 1992. A maximum of 40 children may attend the group at any one time. The club is open from 07.45 to 09.00 and 15.15 to 18.00, each weekday during term time. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area within the school grounds.

There are currently 62 children on roll, attending part time, of these 28 children are under eight years of age. Children attend Edgeworth Primary School.

The group employs seven childcare staff and two ancillary staff to help in the kitchen. There are four staff, including the manager, that hold appropriate early years qualifications and one member of staff is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from infection and are well taken care of if they have an accident or become ill because staff follow current and appropriate health and hygiene guidelines policies and procedures. Parents receive the settings policy on sick children in their welcome pack but the policy does not contain information on which illness children should stay off with and the exclusion periods. Children do not consistently follow good hygiene practices because not all children wash their hands before eating. Staff remind children to wash their hands but do not check to make sure that children have followed the instruction.

Children are mainly well nourished because they are offered a good range of cereals and toast for breakfast and mainly healthy foods, such as jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings for tea. However, not all options are healthy, such as chocolate cake. Fruit is readily available and children can help during the session. Children need to request additional drinks. Children have their health and dietary needs met because staff work well with parents. Children take part in physical play outdoors in the school playground and go on walks in the community.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure, safe indoor and outdoor environment. The temperature in the premises fluctuates and there is no system in place to monitor that a suitable temperature is maintained when the club is operating. Effective risk assessments for indoors and outdoors help to keep children safe. Toys are readily available to children because the staff arrive early to make sure the rooms are welcoming to children.

Children use good quality, suitable and safe equipment. Effective systems are in place to make sure equipment is checked regularly and broken items removed. Children benefit from a toy exchange scheme between the other clubs owned by the company to further increase the variety of toys available.

Children are kept safe on outings because staff visit to check any risks before they take the children. Children learn about road safety through visits from the road safety officer. Staff remind children about keeping themselves safe, for example, through discussing stranger danger with them and reminding them of the rules before they go on outings.

Children are safeguarded because staff have a satisfactory understanding of their role in protecting children. Parents are well informed about the settings child protection procedures because they receive a copy of them in their welcome pack.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy in the club. A good buddy system is in place to offer support to new children until they are confident to find their own friends and activities. Children settle quickly on arrival in the morning into the activities that are readily available.

Children are involved in a broad range of planned activities and spontaneous events. Plans are displayed on the door for children. For example, plans show children making dens and tents and having visits from the road safety unit. Children enjoy craft activities linked in with the planned visit for later in the week on road safety. They use their imagination well as they play with friends using small world equipment. They make positive relationships with each other and staff as they join in tabletop games and invite staff to join in. They move freely between activities, for example, from chess to the computer. They take part in planned walks in the community to take part in treasure hunts.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for because staff work effectively with parents to meet individual children's needs and ensure that they are fully included in the life of the setting. Good procedures help children settle easily into the club through individual inductions for children. Children's opinions are valued and they are able to contribute to various aspects of the club. For example, through children's committee meetings they contribute ideas to the menu and the planning of activities. Children use resources that help them value diversity, for example, jigsaw puzzles. Children behave well and play happily together and understand the value of rules to make sure children have a turn on popular toys, such as the computer. Staff praise children for their good behaviour and record in a book. Children help to write the rules of the club.

Parents and carers are well informed on their child's day through daily discussion with staff, posters on the door and a parent's notice board. Parents receive copies of the club's policies in their welcome pack. Additional records are in place for new children during the settling in period and key workers take responsibility to complete a day sheet to make sure their new children settle and share their recordings with parents. Good procedures are in place to facilitate messages between parents and school because parents can record what they want to say. Comments from parents during the inspection included that their children were happy at the club but not all parents are clear on what their children are doing or what they are eating in the club.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Effective recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that children are well protected and cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. Staff are committed to further development through training. The adult to child ratios positively supports children's care learning and play. Good systems are in place to ensure that all the children arrive at the club as planned. Good use of time, space and staff deployment contributes to children's health, safety, and enjoyment in the setting.

Policies work well in practice and most procedures work well. Record keeping systems are used effectively to meet children's needs and are stored confidentially.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to provide a visitor record. This record is now in place and used appropriately.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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 all children wash their hands before eating
- ensure that the rooms are maintained at a comfortable temperature.

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