



Bowbrick Hill After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY296586
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Inspector	Sylvia June Crawford
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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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Bow Brickhill After School and Holiday Club registered in 2004. It is a privately owned provision and operates from the sports pavilion in Bow Brickhill, a village close to Milton Keynes.

There are currently 32 children on roll in the after school club and 24 in the out of school club. It offers support for children who speak English as a second language and those who have special needs.

The after school club provides care for children attending the local village schools. It

is open during term time from 15.15 until 18.00. The holiday club serves the surrounding area and is open during all school holidays from 08.30 until 18.00.

Currently eight staff, both full time and part time, work with the children. The manager holds a level 3 qualification and most other staff have early years qualifications or are working towards early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the Local Authority.

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 a healthy lifestyle. They have regular opportunities to use a range of small and large equipment both inside the hall and the outside play area, for example, on the bouncy castle and the static play park.

Most children are confident in their independence skills and show a good awareness of basic hygiene with staff offering appropriate support where needed. Children are aware of the importance of washing their hands before eating, after using the toilet and playing outside.

The provision safeguards and promotes children's welfare through staff's knowledge and experience in first aid, good sick child procedures and good recording practices, with all information available to parents. However, there is not sufficient information in writing to promote the well being of children with specific medical issues.

Children have their health and dietary needs met because practitioners work well with parents. They have nutritious snacks, for example, toast, fruit and waffles and lunch boxes are stored appropriately. However, snack time is not well organised and children are not encouraged to participate or be independent, consequently some children become bored and restless. Drinking water is not readily available and therefore children may not have sufficient fluids during the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe environment both indoors and outdoors. Children use suitable and safe equipment and staff ensure that they conduct regular risk assessments to ensure they remain safe for children's use. Children have free choice of the resources and are able to access them easily.

Staff spend time talking to the children about safety issues within the group, for example, no running inside and safe use of the bouncy castle. This is so that children understand why the rules are important and are aware of potential dangers. Children have a good understanding of fire safety and know what to do in the event of a fire because they practise regular fire drills.

Staff have a reasonable understanding of their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary to protect children. However, parents are not made aware of the staff's role and responsibilities with regard to child protection issues and not all staff have the appropriate clearances in place to ensure the protection of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are enthusiastic in the group and keen to take part in the activities. They choose from a good range of resources, with some children choosing to take part in games that are more active while other children select quieter activities such as reading or art and craft. However, staff do not always plan activities to extend and challenge the older, more able children.

Children are developing good relationships and get on well with peers and adults. Most children understand the need to share and take turns when playing together and staff will intervene to support children in negotiations when necessary. Children develop confidence and self-esteem through staff's encouragement to try different activities, for example, using the roller skates. Staff interact well with the children and are interested in what the children do and say. This contributes to children's sense of belonging.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing increasing knowledge and ability from a wide range of practical activities and resources and there is a reasonable range of resources to help children understand the wider world. Children develop self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and make choices and decisions.

Children are well behaved and are aware of staff expectations because they discuss and know the rules. Children support and help one another to be responsible and respond well to the staff's praise and encouragement. The provision has good procedures in place to care for special needs children although the group is not currently caring for any children with special needs.

Staff relationships with parents are friendly. They make parents welcome and share information verbally about their child's day and their achievements. This supports the children's continuity of care. Staff are skilled at settling children into the provision who are unfamiliar with the setting and this encourages children to separate from parents confidently and reassures parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Space in the play scheme is well organised to enable children to play confidently and appropriately. They feel comfortable within a welcoming, child-orientated environment and older children support and protect the younger children.

The setting has most policies, procedures, necessary documentation and parental permissions in place that help promote children's welfare and care. However, the group do not have a clear written policy in place for children who may be lost and the register does not contain information about children's arrival and departure times.

Recruitment and vetting procedures are in place to ensure that children are cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of children development. However, there is not always an adequate number of qualified staff present at each session. The staff have a high regard for the well being of all children and work well together as a team. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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.

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 there are suitable arrangements in place to protect children from persons who are not vetted and parents are aware of the role and responsibility of staff with regard to child protection procedures
- enable children to participate and be independent at snack time and organise the time more effectively, ensure that fresh drinking water is available for children at all times
- ensure that at least half of all childcare staff present at each session hold a level 2 qualification, that times of children's arrival and departure are recorded

in the register and a written procedure to be followed in the event of a child being lost is in clear written form

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