

The Alexandra After School Scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	959878
Inspection date	20 August 2007
Inspector	Christine Fraser Turner

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Registered person	Bolton LEA
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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?

The Alexandra After School Care Scheme opened in 2001. It operates from Alexandra Nursery School and Children's Centre. It is situated in the Daubhill area of Bolton. A maximum of 24 children may attend the scheme at any one time. The scheme is open each weekday from 08.00 until 16.00 for 51 weeks of the year, closing for one week between Christmas and New Year. All children have access to a secure, enclosed play area.

There are currently 36 children aged from three to under eight years on roll.

The nursery employs five staff to work directly with children and employs additional staff to undertake domestic tasks and maintain the premises. All of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from infection and are well taken care of if they are ill because staff follow current and appropriate health and hygiene guidelines. Staff have had first aid training but have not completed the first aid training identified in the National Standards.

Children follow good health and hygiene practices as they wash their hands before eating. They learn about healthy lifestyles as they clean their teeth. For example, they know that teeth become bad if they are not cleaned. Staff discuss foods that children are eating so children learn which food is good for them. Medication records are in place but do not maintain confidentiality.

Children are well nourished through the provision of healthy meals and snacks, for example, cereal and toast for breakfast or fruit for a snack. Drinking water is readily available to children throughout the day. They have their health and dietary needs met because practitioners work well with parents. Children are able to rest according to their needs through the provision of comfortable furniture and quiet areas such as the book area or sensory room where children relax after lunch.

Children enjoy physical activities outdoors. They ride bikes along a special track to offer challenge as they negotiate the pathway and pedal uphill. Children climb on the fixed climbing equipment with additional items added, for example, ladders parallel to the ground, forming a bridge for children to cross.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure, safe indoor and outdoor environment. The outdoor and indoor area are extremely well planned. They offer children good opportunities for selecting their own activities. For example, a comfortable book area is created outdoors and children enjoy using it in the sunshine. Children use high quality, safe equipment that is checked regularly for safety.

Most risk assessments are in place, including steps taken to make safe. However, there is no risk assessment in place for the daily transfer of children at the end of the day to another registered provision. Children wear high visibility jackets when they are walking to the other provision at the end of the day. They learn to keep themselves safe indoors, for example, by sweeping up collage items that have been knocked on the floor, using readily available brush and dustpan.

Children are safeguarded because staff have a good understanding of their role in protecting children and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy in the setting. They are involved in an excellent range of self-chosen activities through continuous provision. Children create their own ideas, for example, through using a

rich variety of collage materials that are displayed in a way that encourages children to be independent. Children take part in meticulously planned activities that support their development and learning. For example, planting and caring for vegetables in the garden. Children develop their play through using high quality equipment, which offers challenge to them such as, building with large, wooden construction materials to make a child-sized car and using tambourines to represent wheels.

Every child has an extremely detailed learning plan, informed by rigorous assessment, which is used to identify individual targets. Children are expertly grouped at circle time to meet their individual needs extremely well, for example, their level of understanding English. Staff use well thought out resources to keep children engrossed in the activities at circle time. Children take part in fun activities such as, face painting and cricket during the holiday care, whilst maintaining some parts of the daily term time routine to make children feel secure. Children make positive relationships with each other and staff.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well cared for by staff who work expertly with parents to meet individual children's needs and ensure that they are fully included in the setting. Staff work hard to ensure children settle easily. For example, through careful transition from the link setting or from home and holiday periods, when there are less children attending by using the small room to help children feel secure and not overwhelmed in a busy environment. Children make their own decisions as they choose their own activities during ongoing provision. They benefit from an excellent range of activities and resources that helps them to value diversity.

Children behave very well. An excellent partnership between staff and parents ensures written information is shared on how to encourage positive behaviour. Staff share 'The five golden rules', which shows what children do in terms of behaviour, in the nursery, using positive language. Children receive rewards for good behaviour, such as a certificate or star of the week.

Parents receive detailed information on the setting. Children benefit from excellent daily verbal communication between staff and children. Planned meetings each term between parents and their child's key worker significantly enhance relationships between staff and parents. Parents are actively encouraged to contribute to the meeting and add their comments to their child's records. They set the target with staff for their child's next step for learning.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are well protected and cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. Adults are committed to ongoing training and individual training needs are identified through staff appraisals. The adult to child ratio positively supports children's care, learning and play. Good use of time and space contributes to children taking an active part in the setting.

Policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. Most records keeping systems are used well to meet children's needs.

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 include procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff in the child protection policy. The policy now includes this information.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 risk assessments are in place for all outings
- review the first aid training for staff to ensure it complies with the National Standards
- review the recording of medication to maintain confidentiality.

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