

Little Tinkers Kids Club Heswall

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY286949
Inspection date	29 November 2007
Inspector	Christine Stewart
Setting Address	Heswall Primary School, Whitfield Lane, Wirral, Merseyside, CH60 7SB
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Registered person	Little Tinkers 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little Tinkers Out of School Club, Heswall opened in 2004. It operates from the canteen and the pre-school room within Heswall Primary School. The school is situated in a residential area of the Wirral and the out of school club serve children who attend the school. The children have access to good outdoor play areas.

There are currently 24 children under eight on roll and a maximum of 24 children may attend at any one time. The club is registered to operate before school between the hours of 07.30 and 09.00 and after school between 15.00 and 18.00 during term time. It supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

There are three staff currently employed at Little Tinkers and two of those staff are working towards an appropriate early years qualification supplement.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Adequate routines are followed for children to stay healthy. Staff wash the fruit and vegetables they give to children to prevent cross contamination. Children are used to washing their hands before snacks and know this is to remove germs. Facilities for preparing food are limited but light healthy snacks are provided and are sufficient for the children's needs. Children have a drink with their snack and water is available to drink whenever they wish.

Floors, furniture, and equipment are kept clean. Emergency arrangements in case of accident and illness are in place to ensure children receive appropriate care, and staff are suitably qualified to administer first aid.

Children have the opportunity to play outdoors if they wish to get fresh air and exercise when the weather permits. However, when outside play is not an option there is no planned alternative provision for children to enjoy and benefit from indoor physical play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well when they arrive because the room is prepared for them with the equipment laid out. There are posters displayed on the walls which provides additional interest for the children. Space is used to provide areas for table top activities and for floor based activities. There is a quiet area where children can read or simply relax.

Procedures are in place to protect children from hazards or dangers. There is a risk assessment check list in place and safe procedures are in place for children to be collected and escorted to the club.

Staff have a satisfactory knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and have the relevant contact numbers so children are protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff create a relaxed atmosphere and have established good relationships with the children. They show an interest in what children do and say. Staff act as good role models as they talk with the children, provide explanations, and listen. Children are relaxed and confident to communicate with staff and each other.

Children remain happy and engage throughout the session in activities which they can select for themselves. They enjoy drawing, constructing with small blocks, dressing up and sharing in a board game. They develop friendships and enjoy friendly competition when playing draughts and four in a row. They organise themselves to share activities and enjoy developing their imaginative play. For example, they plan and orchestrate an imaginary wedding ceremony. This involves dressing up, arranging the chairs for the 'wedding guests' and they elect a 'minister' who practises reading the order of service.

Children have some opportunities to develop their creativity through role play, however, they do not have daily opportunity to explore and experiment using mediums such as paint, junk and musical instruments. Children are not encouraged to contribute to the planning of activities, to include their interest and help them to feel valued and foster their sense of ownership of the club.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are able to take part in the activities provided and individuals are supported appropriately. This helps to promote children's confidence and self-esteem. Children's awareness of diversity and the wider community is not sufficiently promoted. There are few resources, no images displayed and no planned activities or topics to help children learn to value diversity and difference. There are no plans for outings within the community or visitors into the service to extend children's awareness of their local community and the wider world.

Children mainly behave well because staff provide good role models for them. They treat the children and each other with respect and consequently children learn right from wrong.

Staff have established relationships with some of the parents who deliver and collect their children to the scheme. Information is obtained from parents to help staff meet children's individual needs. They can view information displayed on the notice boards. Parents can have access to the setting's policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staffing levels are organised so that they are within the required ratios at all times and provide children with an appropriate level of attention and support. The records which are required to protect children's well-being are up-to-date. However, some policies are not being followed in order to protect children's well-being. A record of visitors to the premises is not always maintained, or the club's policy followed as recorded in their written policies and procedures. Emergency procedures in case of accident and illness are in place to ensure children receive prompt care.

There is no written plans or evidence of informal plans to provide children with a wide range of activities and topics for them to enjoy. There is no record or evaluation of activities children have experienced to ensure that they receive a range and balance of play and learning experiences. There is no forum for children to contribute to the day to day plans of the service or have their interests developed and included in activities offered to them. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was required to ensure that Ofsted is informed of any changes in the registered person or person in charge. Make sure enough staff are trained in first aid to ensure that at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate is on the premises or on outings at any one time. Ensure that minimum space standards for children are maintained

in line with the National Standards for Out of school care. These recommendations have been met with positive effect on children's safety, welfare and learning.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted that required the provider to take action to meet the National Standards. The complaint related to National Standards: 1, 2, 4, 6; and 7. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request.

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 procedures for recording visitors to the service is maintained
- continue to develop resources and ideas for raising children's awareness of diversity
- enable children to contribute to the planning of activities; to help tidy up following activities; to serve their own refreshments and consider additional ways of developing children's sense of belonging within the setting.

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