

The Meadow Out Of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	221680
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Inspector	Emma Bright
Setting Address	Meadow Primary School, High Street, Balsham, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB21 4DJ
Telephone number	01223 894608
E-mail	emma.appleby3@btinternet.com
Registered person	The Trustees of Meadow Out of 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?

The Meadow Out of School is managed by a voluntary management committee, made up of parents of children at the club. It opened in 1997 and operates from a mobile building in the grounds of the Meadow County Primary School in the village of Balsham. A maximum of 35 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open five days a week from 08:00 to 09:00 and from 15:15 to 18:00 during school term times. All children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 86 children aged from four to 11 years on roll. Children come from the local area. The club currently supports a small number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club employs eight staff, three of whom work with children under eight and hold appropriate qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's medical needs are met as parental consents for first aid and the administration of medication are obtained and all staff hold current first aid certificates. If the children become unwell whilst they are in the care of the provision, clear records and procedures are in place to make sure that they are well cared for. Children's good health is promoted and they are protected from cross-infection. They understand about the importance of personal hygiene and competently wash their hands before snack times and after using the toilet. Staff act as good role models, wiping down surfaces before serving food to help children to stay healthy.

Children enjoy a suitable range of physical activities and make use of the outdoor area to participate in active games where they can run around freely or use the large apparatus. Children develop manipulative dexterity when they carefully create their own pictures and they confidently use a range of tools during the session, such as scissors, felt tips and pencils.

Children are very well nourished and they learn about making healthy choices from the good selection of snacks on offer. For example, they readily tuck into pieces of fresh fruit and select from a range of toppings which they spread competently onto warm toast. They help themselves to regular drinks throughout the session so that they remain well hydrated. Children enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of snack time, chatting together and discussing their favourite food. Their individual dietary needs are met as clear information is gathered from parents about allergies or special dietary requirements and this ensures children can eat safely.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a suitably safe environment where most risks are identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around safely and independently under the constant supervision of the staff. However, the main door is not secure, which affects children's on-going safety. Children learn to keep themselves safe as staff explain the dangers to them, which helps children to develop their understanding of hazards and to take responsibility for themselves. Children's safety in case of fire is given high priority. For example, children regularly practise the emergency escape plan so that they all know what to do in the event of an emergency evacuation and are familiar with the routine.

Children play in a warm and welcoming environment, where their artwork is valued and attractively displayed for others to see and enjoy. This promotes their confidence and self-esteem, whilst contributing to their sense of belonging. Children confidently select a good range of activities and resources, which have been well chosen to support their play and this means they can follow their own interests. All resources and equipment are regularly checked by staff to ensure they are in good condition and safe for children to use.

Children's overall welfare is protected by clear procedures and documents that promote their safety. For example, all staff attend regular child protection training to ensure their knowledge is up to date. Staff have a secure understanding of child protection procedures, which are in line with those set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. They are confident to act in the children's best interests in the event of concerns for their welfare, which means that children are well protected and kept safe from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children clearly enjoy their time at the club; they arrive with confidence and enthusiasm, and are warmly welcomed by the staff. Staff respond positively to children's ideas and opinions, treating what they say with respect, which contributes to children's sense of belonging and promotes their self-esteem. Arts and crafts are a popular choice and all the children enjoy drawing, colouring and painting; they demonstrate pride in their achievements and eagerly display their artwork for others to admire. Children enjoy the calm atmosphere of the club, where they can choose to relax in the quiet corner, or they can join in with the activities if they wish. This ensures they can make their own choices about what they want to do and their individual needs are met. Staff work very well together as a team to support children's play and provide plenty of opportunities for fun.

Children are happy and settled, and they form positive relationships with the staff who are caring and sensitive to their needs. They benefit from staff's good knowledge and understanding of child development because staff plan and provide a varied range of stimulating activities and resources, which reflect children's abilities and interests. This means children readily pursue their own interests and become busy and involved in their chosen activity. Children show great enthusiasm in what they do and enjoy the resources on offer. For example, children explore their imagination and make up stories about the farmyard animals which feature "the queen of geese" and "the king of lions". Children enjoy each other's company and play happily together, sharing resources and taking turns. They play with their chosen activity together or alongside staff, who listen to them and take time to engage them in conversation.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are clearly understood by staff as the setting gathers good information from parents to ensure these needs are well met and this contributes to children's well-being. Children have very good opportunities to learn about themselves and the world around them through a range of well planned activities. For example, children sell cakes in order to raise money for charity and this helps them to learn about the needs of others. In addition, children have opportunities to present their suggestions and ideas, which help them to feel included in the life of the setting. Systems are in place to care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, which ensures they are supported appropriately and their needs are respected.

Children benefit from the good relationships between the staff and their parents. Clear and detailed information is gathered from parents, which enables staff to provide appropriate care and this ensures that children feel secure and settled. All policies and procedures are in place to share information with parents and carers. They receive the club's brochure and regular newsletters, which keeps them informed about the setting and activities. Parents also have opportunities to present their views through the use of questionnaires and they have daily opportunities to discuss their child with staff.

Children behave well and demonstrate a clear understanding of what is expected of them as a result of familiar routines and consistent expectations. For example, they respond well to strategies such as using a 'waiting list' for popular resources such as the Play S

tation and explain how they use it. This helps children play well together and learn to develop positive relationships which means that everyone enjoys their time at the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a well-prepared environment that promotes positive outcomes for all children. This enables them to make decisions and pursue their own interests, which contributes to their enjoyment at the setting. Rigorous recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that adults are suitable and have appropriate skills and knowledge to work with children. Clear and up-to-date information for staff is in place, which ensures that all members of the team are secure in their knowledge of their roles and responsibilities. Staff working with children under eight are qualified or are currently working towards an appropriate qualification and they attend a range of training opportunities, such as child protection, which means that children benefit from practices that are in line with current ideas and legislation.

Children's needs are met by good adult:child ratios and they benefit from the care and attention offered by the staff. All required documentation, which ensures children's welfare, is in place. However, the visitors record is not always completed appropriately which potentially affects children's welfare. Staff work well together and demonstrate great enthusiasm for creating a stimulating and interesting environment for all children. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to improve staff's knowledge of child protection and to continue to develop staff training. Staff have attended child protection training and are clear about procedures to protect children's welfare. They continue to attend a range of appropriate training opportunities which means that children benefit from practices that are in line with current ideas and legislation.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 the premises are secure
- ensure the visitors record is completed appropriately.

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