



Radbrook After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY273018

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Inspector Jane Muriel Laraman

Setting Address Radbrook Primary School, Bank Farm Road, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY3 6DU

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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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Radbrook After School Club opened in 2003. It operates from Radbrook County Primary School in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. The group has access to a classroom, main hall, kitchen, toilets and storage facilities. Children attending are from the school. Outdoor play facilities are available with access to the school playground and playing fields.

The club is registered to provide places for 26 children aged between 3 and 8 years. Older children also attend the club and are included in the registered numbers permitted. There are currently 39 children on roll. The club operates Monday to

Friday between 15:00 and 18:00, during school term times. Children can access a variety of sessions. The club supports children who have special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

There are four members of staff available to work directly with the children; over half hold recognised child care qualifications. The group receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about health and hygiene procedures as staff teach, remind and encourage them in good practice. As a consequence, children become independent in their self-care routines and skills and begin to understand the importance of observing sound hygiene practice. Children's health is further protected as staff ensure that the environment is kept clean.

In the event of accidents, children are treated by staff who have first aid qualifications and access to a suitably stocked first aid box. The accident book is completed accurately, but the format could be improved to ensure greater confidentiality. A medication administration system needs to be set up to ensure that all requests, relevant information and action taken are recorded.

Children benefit from healthy exercise and their physical development is enhanced through having access to physical play at every session. They are able to use the school playground and field and take part in team games, tackle obstacle courses and the climbing frame and have access to a varied range of equipment. The school hall is also available for indoor physical and creative activity.

Children enjoy their snack time after finishing a busy day in school and staff encourage them to interact socially. Children are able to choose a drink of water or fruit squash and have independent access to further drinks throughout the session. They usually have a biscuit or chocolate bar and although they have access to fresh fruit throughout the day in school, there are no healthier options available at the club. Staff are considering plans to introduce other more nutritious snacks. Children's cultural and dietary requirements are respected, through using information provided by their parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and settle well in the club's familiar surroundings. They are cared for in a well-maintained environment where risks are identified and minimised, enabling them to move around safely and freely. Toys and equipment are suitably maintained and conform to safety standards. This allows children the freedom to make safe choices and independently access resources from a selection made

available to them.

Children are involved in developing the club's safety rules and are consequently aware of how to protect themselves. They are further protected as staff are vigilant about safety matters and consistently teach and re-enforce safety precautions to be observed by the children. Measures are in place to ensure that access to the premises is controlled, thus maintaining a secure environment for the children.

Robust registration systems ensure that children's arrival and departure times are accurately recorded and that staff know who should be present at all times. Children learn about fire evacuation procedures as they take part in regular fire drills, they are also reassured by staff of the fire safety precautions taken to protect them.

Staff have a satisfactory awareness of child protection issues and know some of the signs and symptoms to look out for. They have access to written procedures to follow if they have any concerns about abuse or neglect of any child in their care, so children's welfare is safeguarded. However, staff have not had recent training to update their knowledge in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident as they feel secure and valued in the welcoming environment provided by staff at the club. Children enjoy participating in a very good range of activities, both indoors and outdoors and as a result they are able to practise their skills and develop good social relationships with their peers and the staff. Most activities are spontaneously chosen or initiated by the children themselves, thus they make their own independent choices about play and learning.

Children's thoughts and suggestions are listened to and they are encouraged to contribute their ideas when planning topics and associated activities. Staff understand the children well and use appropriate strategies to inspire and motivate them. Language and communication skills are developed as a result of the staff engaging children in lively conversation.

Due to the varied range of activities and opportunities, children are able to fulfil their differing needs and preferences to be energetic, relaxed, creative or reflective. They take a pride in their club and enjoy their achievements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's differing abilities and needs are well catered for within the provision. Through the positive example of being made welcome and treated with respect by staff, children are helped to develop positive attitudes towards others. The sensitive use of appropriate resources, such as dressing-up clothes, books, puzzles and dolls that reflect cultural diversity also helps to promote a further understanding of the world beyond their own.

The children are already familiar with the group setting and find their way easily around it, because it is situated in the school that they attend throughout the day. Their confidence in the environment helps them to develop good levels of independence. Children with special needs can be well supported in the setting and staff are able to liaise with parents and outside agencies as appropriate.

Standards of behaviour are generally good and children respond positively to the high expectations and clear boundaries set by the staff. This co-operation helps them to play happily alongside others as they learn how to share and take turns.

Relationships with parents are very friendly and they are given useful written information about the provision. Personal information they are asked to provide about their children is respected and acted upon and clear contractual agreements are in place. Parents are also made very welcome and kept informed of the club's activities through verbal feedback, thus further promoting the children's well-being and development.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by qualified and experienced staff, who are able to interact sensitively with them. Staff employment policies and procedures are designed to ensure that those caring for the children are suitably vetted. Although staffing records and details of training and qualifications are kept, they were not available for inspection.

Children enjoy comfort and security in a welcoming environment where they have sufficient space to partake in a range of indoor and outdoor play opportunities. They have access to a suitable range of equipment and resources from which they are able to make independent choices.

Records required for the efficient and safe management of the provision and promotion of children's welfare are appropriately kept, but policies and procedures need to be regularly reviewed and some extended to accurately reflect the childcare practice of the setting.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable as this is the first inspection.

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):

- review and improve accident recording procedures to ensure a greater level of confidentiality
- devise a medication policy to include details of a recording and consent system and the procedures to be followed if medication were to be administered
- include a range of healthy food choices when providing snacks
- develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues further and ensure they are all confident in the procedures to follow if they have child protection concerns
- ensure all relevant staffing records are readily accessible on the premises and available for inspection
- extend the 'uncollected child' policy to include details of the procedures to be followed in the event that a child is lost and ensure that all policies are regularly reviewed and updated when necessary.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk