

## Pitstop, The - Melton out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY255294
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Glenda Kathleen Field
<b>Setting Address</b>	Melton Road, Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1PG
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<b>Registered person</b>	Pitstop, The - Melton out of School Club
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Pitstop, The Melton Out of School Club opened in 2003. It operates from the hall and library in Melton Primary School. Secure outdoor areas are used for outdoor play. The club serves the local area and is registered to care for a maximum of 40 children at any one time. There are currently 47 children from five years to 12 years on roll. The children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club opens five days per week during school holidays from 08.00 until 18.00. Six staff are employed to work with the children. One member of staff has an early years qualifications and three others are currently working towards relevant qualifications.

The club enjoy outings to Lowestoft beach, the cinema, Colchester Zoo and children's soft play centres.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene practice through regular routines. For example, staff remind them to wash their hands after using the toilet and they ensure children wash their hands before eating. Children's well-being is promoted because staff are well informed about their health care matters and all the required documentation and consents are in place to support this. There is always at least one member of staff present with current first aid training and the first aid kit is readily available, so ensuring children receive appropriate care in the event of an accident or a medical emergency.

Children benefit from an excellent variety of healthy snack options. Children at the holiday school club are provided with cereal for breakfast if required and a healthy, nourishing snack in the morning and afternoon. The morning snack consists of a selection of fresh fruit, for example, grapes, bananas, apples and tangerines. Children are able to choose when they wish to have their snack. However, children's social skills and their awareness of healthy living are not encouraged at these times, for example, children do not sit at tables but wander around with drinks, some children play with snack food by throwing grapes the air and attempting to catch them in their mouths. In the afternoon they are involved in preparing their own snacks, for example, fresh pizza, assorted sandwiches, hot dogs, fruit and rice pudding. Children bring their own packed lunches from home. Children's individual dietary needs and details of any allergies are recorded on their registration forms and staff are all aware of these. Children can access drinking water from fountains, and staff supply jugs of water and beakers when using the outdoor area to ensure children are not thirsty. Children are able to rest and relax on bean bags and soft floor cushions in the library.

Children take part in a wide range of physical activities which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They regularly play in the school playground and on the field where they enjoy a variety of sports including football, rounders, relay races and tennis. Indoors, staff organise games, such as musical statues and Twister. Children have space to move about in safety and enthusiastically take part in activities such as table tennis.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment within the school. The setting has the use of the school hall, library and outdoor areas. Staff closely monitor children's arrival and departure and maintain accurate attendance registers. Staff and visitors sign in and out and entrances to the school are kept secure to prevent unauthorised access.

Children have access to a good range of high quality toys and equipment which meet safety standards. Staff carry out visual safety checks while preparing the room before the children arrive. Staff remind children of the safety rules, for example, to keep the balls within the area designated for ball play. Children are kept safe on outings because staff ensure children understand safety rules, such as always being able to see their responsible adult. Children are learning to keep themselves safe in an emergency by practising emergency evacuations with staff to ensure they are aware of the procedures to follow in the event of a fire.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because all staff are aware of their responsibilities to report any concerns they may have of children's welfare and are familiar with the procedures to follow if they have a concern. The referral numbers are available to all staff in the operational plan and the child protection statement is displayed on the group's notice board in the hall.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

On arrival children immediately settle happily at their chosen activities from those provided. Children spend their time motivated and involved in pairs or small groups, for example, while creating book markers and decorating trinket boxes with their own designs from the good range of craft materials provided. Lots of laughter takes place when children dance and sing to their favourite popular songs, such as 'Reach for the stars' by S Club 7. Children respond well to staff who are interested in what they do and say. Staff interact well with the children and join in with their play, such as the game of Twister, assisting at the computer and playing chess at the large floor based chess set.

Children are offered an excellent range of activities. The day is divided into sessions of free play, organised outdoor games and art and craft activities. Planned activities include clay workshops and themed activities, such as Halloween when children made their own giant cauldron and dressed as skeletons, Dracula and witches. Children enjoy a variety of outdoor play activities, for example, tennis, relay races, rounders and football. The space in the hall is organised so that children can play physical games indoors, such as musical statues, table tennis and Twister if they need to let off steam especially when the weather is not too good. A range of outings to places of interest to children take place, these include visits to Jan's Mad House, Colchester Zoo, Lowestoft beach and the cinema.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children make choices and decisions with confidence as they move around the provision, independently selecting activities. All children are valued and included and they have equal access to equipment and toys that meet their individual needs. Children have access to resources that promote a positive view of diversity and become aware of the wider community through outings made. For example, visits are made to Colchester Zoo, Jan's Mad House, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reserve at Minsmere, Lowestoft beach and the cinema.

The provision has a positive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and works in partnership with parents and other professionals to ensure children's specific needs are met.

Staff use clear and consistent explanations to promote children's understanding of expected behaviour and help them develop an understanding of the needs of others. Children understand the rules regarding sharing the Playstation console and know to put their name down for a turn. However, the rules pertaining to the club are not displayed and children are not encouraged to contribute to them, therefore they do not gain a sense of ownership and belonging.

Parents value the flexibility of the club and peace of mind in knowing that their children are safe and well cared for. They are kept up to date with the running of the club via an excellent information pack plus regular newsletters both of which are very professional in appearance and content. Information is also shared verbally with staff on arrival and collection of children.

to ensure children's changing needs are met. All the required documentation and consents are in place to ensure children are cared for according to their parents' wishes. Parents are informed through the setting's complaints procedure how they can express any concerns and this includes details of the regulation. The Ofsted poster is displayed so parents are aware of how to make contact if they are unsatisfied by the response to their complaint by the provider or if there are child protection concerns.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

All the required operational policies and procedures are in place to support the welfare of the children attending and are contained in a comprehensive operational plan, which is made available to parents. The required documentation and consents are accurately maintained to ensure children receive appropriate care. Staff deployment throughout the setting is effective and staff spend their time working directly with the children to support their care, learning and play.

Robust recruitment and vetting procedures are in place to ensure children are cared for by suitable staff with a sound knowledge and understanding of child development. Senior staff are well qualified and evaluate the provision to identify areas for improvement. Staff work well together as a team and are aware of each other's roles and responsibilities. Overall children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the setting agreed to ensure all staff are vetted and that a minimum of half the staff hold relevant early years qualifications. A robust vetting procedure has been introduced and one staff member is qualified and three others are currently working towards relevant qualifications. This ensures that children are cared for by suitable and qualified staff.

It was also agreed to minimise hazards within the setting, referred to the safety of the heater. This has been addressed and no longer poses a hazard to children, thus ensuring their safety. All accident and incident records were to be recorded and signed by parents and maintained in a manner that ensured confidentiality. Staff were to be aware of children's medical and dietary needs. Accident and incident records have been improved to contain the signature of parents to acknowledge the entries and individual records are maintained to ensure confidentiality. Information regarding children's medical and dietary needs are provided by parents and made available to all staff. This ensures the good health of children attending the setting.

## **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):

- provide children with opportunities to develop a sense of belonging and have their views taken into account
- encourage children's social skills and their awareness of healthy living by devising a more structured snack time.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)