

Wylde Cats After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 229016

Inspection date 19 December 2007

Inspector Lisa Jeffries

Setting Address Wylde Cats, Green Lanes, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5JL

Telephone number 0121 386 2366

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Registered person Wylde Cats 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 provision was registered in 1995 and operates from a primary school in Sutton Coldfield. The group have access to the main school hall, dining hall, two classrooms, the computer suite, quiet room, kitchen and toilet facilities. It operates each week day, term time only. Sessions are from 07.30 until 09.00 and 15.30 until 18.00. There is access to an outdoor play area.

There are currently 94 children from 4 to 11 years on roll. The service supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. The setting employs 21 members of staff, over half of whom are qualified to level two or above.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is highly promoted through an extensive range of positive actions that ensure their hygiene is maintained and that they get plenty of fresh air and exercise. Staff follow thorough daily hygiene practices to ensure the premises are kept thoroughly clean. For example,

toilet areas are checked regularly, tables are cleaned frequently and children are supported well over personal hygiene issues such as washing their hands. Effective steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection when children become ill or injured and children's health and medication needs are clearly and consistently recorded. The majority of staff are trained in paediatric first aid and a first aid kit is kept fully-stocked and within easy reach.

Snack times are social occasions, when children sit with their friends in small groups to chat about their day and share their news. Snacks include a selection of sandwiches with different fillings, crackers and cheese and fresh fruit and vegetables. Children savour crumpets, croissants, pancakes, waffles and muffins for breakfast, along with cereal and fruit juice. Staff are skilled at promoting healthy eating with the children and all dietary requirements are fully met. Children help themselves to drinks regularly throughout the session to ensure they are comfortable and well-hydrated. All children's individual care needs are successfully met because the setting obtains comprehensive information at registration.

Children develop a considerable awareness of how to keep healthy through being active as they enjoy fun outdoor play activities such as football, netball, rounders, hockey and cricket. Sports organisers plan a variety of activities to promote children's physical skills and children have access to an extensive range of equipment. The adventure playground is extremely popular and children extend their balance and coordination whilst using the large play apparatus. Bikes, nets, balls and hoops are also used enthusiastically. Children frequently use the playing field where they enjoy team games and running free in open spaces. Indoors, children take pleasure doing dance clubs and playing skittles.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are very well looked after in premises that are secure and fit for their purpose. Members of staff ensure that the environment gives children easy access to a wide range of facilities that successfully promote their development in all areas. Children use equipment that is stimulating, well-maintained and conforms to safety standards. Children are able to move around the premises freely as members of staff have a strong awareness of safety and have effective precautions in place. Consequently children discover boundaries and limits, learn about rules and are protected whilst being active.

Children's safety is promoted because members of staff take positive steps to minimise risks to children, for example, through concise, regular risk assessments and fire drills. A precise emergency evacuation plan is rehearsed and children are confident in their actions in the event of an emergency. Members of staff are proactive in identifying hazards and raising children's awareness by discussing safe practices with them, such as road safety and firework safety. Regular visual assessments are conducted to ensure that children are continually kept safe. A good level of supervision ensures that the risk of accidents is significantly reduced.

Children are actively safeguarded as members of staff have a clear understanding of their role in child protection and are confident to implement local procedures. They are vigilant, aware of how to seek advice and are knowledgeable about the children in their care and intuitive of their individual needs. Parents are aware of the setting's procedures and the action they intend to take should they have any cause for concern. Although the policy is informative, it does not include a section relating to allegations against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting and show they feel at home in the familiar and welcoming surroundings. Close relationships are developed and children are quick to involve staff in what they are doing, share their news and chat freely. A daily story time is held during the morning session to settle children and help them to relax before school. Children are encouraged to talk about what they have done at school or home and this allows them to get to know each other well. They are confident and self-assured in their play, negotiating and interacting with their peers to share ideas and experiences. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for simple tasks such as laying the table, preparing snacks and pouring their own drinks. As a result children's independence is consistently promoted through everyday activities.

Children are kept fully interested and stimulated through board games, construction, cooking and imaginative play. They enjoy using computers and the internet and they amuse themselves playing pool and snooker. Tournaments encourage children to develop a healthy sense of competition and they compete over chess, tennis and the Playstation to win trophies. Children obtain valuable support through the homework club and they take pleasure adding to the club magazine. They are encouraged to make their own decisions about what they want to do and enjoy the freedom of initiating their own games and developing their own play ideas. Staff are very supportive, facilitating children's play and providing resources to help them fully develop their ideas. An effective balance of quiet and active times are offered throughout each session and children also extend their skills through a variety of craft activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children feel highly valued due to the exceptional support and close attention they receive. High staffing levels result in close relationships and optimum continuity of care. Children are quick to approach staff for help and support, excitedly share their news and show they feel comfortable and secure with the adults who care for them. Children behave extremely well, demonstrating an excellent understanding of what is expected of them. Clear rules and boundaries are set and children actively understand the club rules. Staff are effective in their use of positive praise and this is unquestionably reflected in the children's behaviour.

Children learn to recognise and respect social diversity through seeing positive images of different people as they play and through celebrations of different festivals. Books, dolls and small world resources help them to develop a balanced view of the world and they also frequently talk about the differences and similarities in their backgrounds. The setting is committed to inclusion and staff work successfully with parents and other support agencies when necessary to support all children in their care. Children make choices about their care and play activities, which promotes their self-confidence and enables them to feel included.

Excellent relationships are formed with parents. Daily verbal exchanges of information, notice boards and written policies provide comprehensive information that helps parents to feel fully confident in leaving their children at the setting. Staff know parents well and dedicate time to talk to them about what their children have been doing. Parents are given cohesive information on how to raise queries, complaints or suggestions with staff and there is an effective complaints procedure and recording system in place to ensure that appropriate and prompt action is taken on any concerns raised. Comments from parents illustrate that they highly value the quality of care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Staff work together effectively, interacting with children, listening and responding to their ideas and getting to know them well. They are well-qualified, clear about their roles and responsibilities and the setting has a solid sense of purpose and direction. Systematic employment procedures ensure that children are unreservedly protected and there is a strong commitment to staff training and professional development. Space and resources are used creatively and children highly benefit from the free-flow structure of the sessions.

A vast level of records and documentation ensure that children's care, welfare and enjoyment are unmistakably promoted. A set of relevant, practical and easy to follow policies and procedures reflect daily practice and are shared with parents. Records are clear, up-to-date, easily accessible and stored securely. All documentation is retained for inspection. Children thrive as they are extraordinarily happy, safe and comfortable. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to ensure that Ofsted is notified of all staff changes. Staff are fully aware of the need to inform the regulator of any significant events or changes. This facilitates the efficient and safe management of the provision.

In addition, the provider was asked to ensure that children have access to drinking water at all times. Children enjoy constant access to drinks as jugs of water are regularly replenished and cups are provided. This has had a positive impact upon the quality of care as children remain comfortable and well-hydrated.

Finally, the provider was asked to develop and implement a written policy for sick children and to update the policy for uncollected children to include the procedure for a lost child. The setting now has a clear policy regarding sick children and the policy for uncollected children has been successfully updated. The policies and procedures promote the welfare of children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by the 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):

- develop the child protection policy to include the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation against a member of staff.

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