

Milking Bank Out of Hours Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	253875
Inspection date	04 July 2007
Inspector	Patricia Dawes

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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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?

Milking Bank Out of School Club is a committee run group. It opened in 1993 and operates from two rooms within a primary school, which is situated on a housing estate in Dudley. The club provides a service to the local community and surrounding areas.

There are currently 22 children aged from four to under eight years on roll. The club's admissions policy allows for children up to the age of 11 years to attend. A maximum of 16 children may attend the club at any one time. The club serves the children from the school and is open each weekday from 07.50 to 08.45 and Monday to Wednesday from 15.20 to 17.30 during term time only.

The club employs five members of staff. All of these hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are effectively protected from illness because staff are experienced and have a good understanding of good hygiene procedures and practices. Tables are cleaned with anti-bacterial spray prior to snack time and staff consistently encourage and remind children to become proficient in their own personal care routines such as hand washing after toileting and before snack time.

Children have their health and dietary needs met because practitioners work in co-operation with parents to collect and record all information regarding specific dietary or religious needs. Children have independent and regular access to drinks. Staff plan themes and topics to encourage children to learn about the importance of a healthy lifestyle, such as, preparing fruits and healthy sandwiches for snack time.

Children benefit from an effective, planned daily routine, which allows them varied opportunities to relax and take a break from the rigours of the school day. They enjoy a broad range of exciting physical activities that promote their understanding of how to stay healthy and active, such as, learning circus skills and competing in indoor team games.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe environment that helps them feel settled and confident. They are familiar with the staff and building which means they are settled and confident. Security of the premises is good and children's welfare is safeguarded. Effective systems are in place for staff to collect children at the end of the school day. Parents sign their own children out of the club at the end of the session. Risk assessments are conducted to ensure the building is safe, however, these are not reviewed regularly to demonstrate if identified hazards are still valid or have been addressed. This has the potential to impact on children's health and safety.

Children use high quality equipment appropriate to their age and stage of development. It is easily accessible, checked thoroughly to ensure it meets safety requirements and cleaned regularly. There is ample space available to allow children to use a range of activities, which promotes their development well. All children have equal access to resources which are not restricted.

Children learn about safe practices as adults explain about group rules. They know and comply with safety and care routines including practising fire safety routines. Regular communication with parents also contributes to children's safety.

Children are well protected by staff who have a clear understanding of all aspects of child protection. Comprehensive and effective policies and procedures are in place to promote children's welfare. Staff are aware of child protection issues, understand their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice where necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

All children's needs are met and their welfare promoted by staff who have a good understanding of each child and their interests. Children settle quickly into the familiar environment, are happy, confident, eager to play and have fun. They eagerly initiate conversations with staff and talk with enthusiasm about what they have done during their school day. Children are able to decide what they would like to do through the use of a 'suggestion box'. They are encouraged to use their creative skills to design and make a display for their project on healthy eating using a variety of pictures of fruits.

All areas of children's personal and social development are met by the high quality staff interaction. They have a good understanding of how to motivate children by ensuring activities are adapted for all children to participate. Children are currently learning circus skills which they were eager to share. Staff facilitate activities well and encourage children to join in although they respect children's decisions to opt in or out of activities.

Children's confidence and self-esteem are boosted by the skilful interaction of the staff. They are positive and show respect to all children valuing what each child has to offer. Staff and children have a relaxed relationship and relate well to each other. Older children play with younger children sharing and taking turns. Staff offer praise and encouragement to children which helps create an environment where children behave well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have good relationships with staff and peers. They interact well together and adults are interested in what the children say and do, enabling children to feel settled and confident. The setting has an inclusion policy which identifies that children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities or who speak English as an additional language are effectively integrated into the group's activities. Equal opportunity is extensively promoted through resources and activities that show positive images of culture and disability. Gender stereotyping is discouraged and children are encouraged to play with all toys. All children are treated with equal concern and have their individual needs met well.

Children's behaviour is well managed due to the clear boundaries and positive role models set by the staff. Parents and children agree to and sign up to the rules of the club. Staff maintain a record of any significant incidents, which is shared with parents to ensure consistent behaviour management. Children understand the difference between right and wrong and this is continually reinforced through daily routines and practices, such as, showing care and consideration for others and helping to tidy away toys after use. A reward system for positive behaviour is an incentive used by staff to show children staff value them and respect their individual efforts. This promotes children's self-esteem, welfare and development.

Children benefit from the positive partnership staff have developed with parents. Staff are friendly and approachable, they work closely with parents and share information each evening when children are collected. Written agreements with parents are comprehensive and clear. Staff inform parents of the new complaints procedure, however, the format available to log any complaints they may receive is out of date and does not contain the correct information in line with the guidance. Therefore, parents are not fully informed of factors that have the potential to impact on children's well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

A rigorous and robust recruitment and vetting system operates to ensure children are well protected. Staff employed at the club has a sound knowledge of child development. Effective deployment of staff ensures children are given appropriate support to meet their needs. Well-organised resources, well-planned routines and activities help children to feel confident and secure in the warm and welcoming environment.

Comprehensive policies are in place that has a positive impact on children's safety and well-being. Most records and procedures necessary for the smooth running of the club are readily available to ensure children's health, safety and well-being is safeguarded. Confidentiality is maintained, and information is shared with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, the nominated person agreed to devise and implement a written procedure to follow in the event of lost or uncollected children and obtain parental consent to seek emergency treatment or advice.

Both of these recommendations have been addressed. Parents are aware of the procedure staff will follow if their child is not collected from the group on time and staff have obtained written parental permission should there be the need to seek emergency treatment or advice following an accident to their child. As a result, children's welfare is safeguarded.

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):

- improve the system of recording children's accidents to ensure these are shared with parents

- ensure risk assessments are reviewed regularly to identify significant changes and validity
- keep a record of complaints relating to the national standards and any action taken

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