

Sandwell Asian Family Support Service

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	268336
Inspection date	31 July 2007
Inspector	Bernadina Laverty
Setting Address	ASRA Health & Social Care Centre Committee, Fenton Street,, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 1HA
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Registered person	Sandwell Asian Family Support Service
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?

Smiling Stars out of school club registered with Ofsted in 2002. It is run by Sandwell Asian Family Support Service at the ASRA Health and Social Care Centre in Smethwick, Birmingham. The group provides out of school care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities only. Children can be referred to the club by Social Services, Children with Disabilities Team, other professionals and parents. The setting serves the local community and surrounding areas. The setting welcomes children who speak English as an additional language.

The club is open Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 15:00 to 18:00 and on Saturdays from 11:00 to 16:00. The club also operates in the school holidays for 12 hours a week, usually on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 to 14:00. There are currently 26 children aged from three to 18 years on roll.

There are three full-time staff who work with the children, all of whom hold early years qualifications. Volunteer assistants work on a daily basis to ensure children receive individual attention. The setting receives support from the Special Needs Advisory Service.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have their health and dietary needs met because practitioners work well with parents. For example, record cards detail all specific information relating to allergies and illnesses. Children are learning good hygiene practice including hand washing. They have access to soap and paper towels and children are given assistance as their needs require.

Preventative measures are taken to minimise the spread of infection, such as practitioners wearing

disposable gloves and aprons for food preparation and dealing with children's personal care needs. Detailed procedures are in place in the event of children having an accident or becoming ill. These include infection control guidance. Practitioners have completed first aid training and have a good knowledge of notifiable diseases and the reporting procedures.

Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills and have access to a wide range of toys and equipment that are clean, safe and age appropriate. Children have a wide range of mobility needs; are all welcomed and catered for sensitively by practitioners. For example, the open plan nature of the room ensures accessibility for wheel chair users.

Children are learning about a healthy lifestyle because they participate in discussions and activities that relate to healthy eating. Health professionals, including a dietician and a dental nurse attend to give educational talks to children. Children bring packed lunches which are stored appropriately according to food safety regulations. Water is readily available with a variety of beakers and cups, catering for all children's stages of development and ensuring they are well hydrated throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and well-maintained environment. They have access to a range of quality toys and resources which are appropriate for their age and stage of development. Access to the premises is monitored requiring visitors and staff to sign in and out. Children's arrival and departure times are detailed on the register, which ensures that daily attendance is accurately recorded.

Fire safety is prioritised as children practise regular drills and fire exits are clearly labelled. Children are learning to keep themselves safe as they are encouraged to be alert to trip hazards posed by toys on the floor. Visual safety checks are carried out by practitioners and documentation completed. However, the risk assessment lacks specific details relating to use of the minibus, outside area or the sensory room. This potentially compromises children's safety.

Children are well protected as detailed procedures are in place outlining practitioner's roles and responsibilities with regard to reporting child protection concerns. They attend regular training and are aware of possible signs of abuse or neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive very confidently and enjoy their time at the setting. They settle very quickly as the environment is welcoming. Toys and resources are easily accessible. Good staffing ratios enables plenty of opportunities for one to one interactions. Planning is very flexible, child-led and encompasses children's individual needs. Children have use of a lovely sensory room that is used on a daily basis. Children's communication is encouraged extremely well and their individual needs are well respected. Children are very confident and develop positive relationships with practitioners and each other. They learn to share, take turns and understand the needs of their peers.

Children participate in a variety of activities to stimulate their sensory, physical and cognitive learning, including sponge painting, drawing and musical activities. They enthusiastically play with glockenspiels and then pause to feel the vibrations, exploring the different sounds of instruments. Children show good levels of interest and concentration whilst looking at books and listening to stories. They try to read books for themselves and invent narratives to go with the text, drawing on the language patterns of stories. Children with mobility difficulties are well supported and encouraged to develop their independence skills. They move freely around the setting and decide what and who they will play with.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children work harmoniously with others because all activities, such as painting are organised to be accessible for all children, including wheel chair users. Children attending have a wide range of additional needs and the setting works very well with a multi-disciplinary team of professionals to ensure children receive the best possible care. Practitioners are positive about inclusion because children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and English as an additional language are an integral part of the group. Their contributions and differences are celebrated and valued. Planning includes provision to acknowledge other cultures through exciting activities, such as food tasting, helping children to become aware of diversity.

Children's behaviour is excellent. They understand responsible behaviour because competent, experienced adults care for children and manage a wide range of challenging behaviour so as to promote their welfare and development. The calm atmosphere and patient, caring practitioners help to reinforce positive behaviour.

Parents are welcomed into the setting and the club provides a commendable service which forms an integral support network within the local community. Parents receive detailed, helpful information about the provision and the setting's policies and procedures are readily available to them. Practitioners are bi-lingual and communicate easily with both children and their parents, ensuring everyone is fully included in the life of the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children enjoy attending this welcoming, inclusive group. They thrive in the calm, stimulating atmosphere and relate very well to each other. Practitioners have a high regard for the well-being of all children because the adult: child ratio effectively supports children's care, learning and play.

Policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety and enjoyment because the operational plan is regularly reviewed and updated. Staff meetings are held regularly to discuss issues and training needs. Recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are well protected and cared for by practitioners with knowledge, experience and understanding of child development. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection there were recommendations relating to documentation about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious and accident records being maintained and signed by parents. All documentation has been updated and is now reviewed regularly. The implementation of these recommendations ensures children's safety and well-being is fostered.

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):

- ensure the risk assessment is updated to incorporate hazards posed by the use of the minibus, outdoor area and the sensory room.

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