

Westgate Wonders

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY264748
Inspection date	05 July 2007
Inspector	Sandra Elizabeth Williams
Setting Address	Langridge Way, Morecambe, Lancashire, LA4 4XF
Telephone number	01524 423348
E-mail	
Registered person	Westgate Wonders C.C.
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?

Westgate Wonders Out of School Club opened in 2003 and operates from Westgate County Primary School, Morecambe, Lancashire. The club has use of a large room which can be divided, a kitchen and toilet facilities. Children can also access the IT room, the library and the school hall.

A maximum of 36 children from four to under eight years may attend the club at any one time. Older children of primary school age may also attend. The club is open each week day from 07.30 until 09.00 and from 15.15 until 18.00, during term time only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 68 children from five to 11 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with learning difficulties. The facility employs four members of staff. Over half of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about being healthy in a number of ways. They follow good hygiene routines as they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times during the day. Children are protected from the risk of cross-infection as the staff have a sick child policy which prevents children from attending if they have contagious illnesses. The children's health needs are well catered for as all of the staff are trained in first aid, and have well equipped first aid kits available. Thorough systems are in place for recording accidents and medical issues.

The children have regular opportunities to enjoy physical exercise because they have access to the outdoor play area, where they can develop their physical coordination by playing with the stimulating range of play equipment, such as for netball, tennis, football and skipping. They also enjoy use of the large school hall if the weather is poor, where they play various challenging group games that require teamwork. The children develop their fine motor skills as they engage in play with construction toys and craft activities.

Children learn about healthy eating in very enjoyable ways and the choice of food is very good. Children have a different choice of snacks each day. They choose from healthy options, such as strawberries, melon, pineapple, malt loaf and fruit cocktail. They have a choice of drinks such as fresh fruit juice and milk. They also have continuous access to a fresh drinking water fountain situated in the classroom. Children learn about taking responsibility as they take turns to help serve the food to their friends. Mealtimes are extremely enjoyable and sociable times for the children. They chatter happily and enthusiastically with their friends and the staff about their daily experiences. Children's individual dietary requirements are known to the staff and are well met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are looked after in a very safe, secure and welcoming environment that enables them to feel confident to move about the setting safely. Risk assessments are in place to identify and resolve hazards, maintaining the thorough safety standards of the premises inside and outside. Children are developing a good knowledge of keeping themselves safe by learning about road safety and wearing high visibility vests in the dark. They also learn about fire safety as they regularly practise the emergency evacuation procedure with the staff.

Children are able to gain independence skills as they easily access the play resources available. Some children choose to undertake craft activities whilst others choose to play board games or read books. They benefit from the close supervision of the staff, who are sensitive to individual needs and offer support when needed. The children are relaxed, have fun and move freely around the welcoming premises. Children's welfare is safeguarded through the staff's thorough knowledge of the local child protection procedures. The staff have undertaken child protection training and have a good awareness of what to do if they have concerns about the children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy and achieve due to the interesting range of imaginative activities available to them. The children are consulted about what activities they would like to undertake and the staff take their requests seriously. The children have very good, trusting relationships with the staff and settle confidently in this welcoming and exciting setting. They know the routine and feel secure and relaxed at their club. They enjoy playing with friends they know from school. They play very well together, chatter happily and work well in group activities, such as making large collages to display on the walls. Examples of the children's work and photographs of the activities are attractively displayed on the walls in the classrooms.

Children express their creativity and imagination as they enthusiastically engage in junk modelling. They are provided with a good range of materials and equipment that helps them develop their imaginations. They enjoy regular visits from a representative from the local council who tells them about the importance of recycling and how items can be used for different purposes. Children choose from a range of activities. Some choose to do word searches, whilst others play board games with each other. Some children go to the library for some quiet time, where they can chill out and relax on comfortable cushions after a busy day at school.

Children's self-esteem and confidence is skilfully developed by the staff, who encourage them to share exciting news with the rest of the group. Children confidently stand up and share their news, such as going on holiday to Egypt. Others talk about their favourite football book and show it to their friends. The atmosphere is relaxed and the staff are nurturing, which helps the children to feel comfortable.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children make a positive contribution and play a full part in the club because staff value and respect their individuality. They are encouraged to develop positive attitudes about a diverse society through the activities and resources provided by the staff, such as dolls and books. There are also posters on the wall about inclusion and different festivals and faiths to help children learn about the wider world. Children learn about their own community by having visits from various people from the community, such as the fire officer who talks to the children about fire safety. They also have visits from the council officer to reinforce the importance of recycling.

Children with learning difficulties are welcome to join the club. Staff are committed to working well with parents and other professionals if children require extra support to join in. The staff also very effectively encourage all the children in the club to be supportive and inclusive towards each other. This develops the children's understanding of others. Positive behaviour is constantly encouraged by the use of praise and encouragement. The children learn right from wrong due to the staff's fair approach. The children are involved in the formulation of the club rules and have written them on the wall. Behaviour is good, children listen to staff and respond well to their boundaries and requests. Children receive medals for good behaviour. The children with the most medals are presented with a certificate at the end of term.

Children benefit from the very positive partnership the staff have with their parents. The staff work very closely with parents, sharing information on a daily basis to ensure that the children's individual needs are recognised and their welfare is promoted. Parents find the staff to be very

approachable and friendly. The staff have a prospectus for parents, however, it has not yet been updated.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are able to take an active part in the setting, which is well supervised by the staff to promote the children's enjoyment and achievements. They are relaxed and confident in the environment, with their individual care further supported by the staff being well qualified and experienced. There are effective recruitment procedures to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Staff plan an extremely interesting range of activities so that the children enjoy varied play in a busy, friendly atmosphere. Staff organise space and resources very well so that children can move about and access equipment easily. Children's needs are known and recorded through thorough systems. The required records are in place. Policies are available to parents and are carefully stored confidentially in a cupboard. Children's good quality of care is further reflected in the positive feedback from parents who appreciate the friendly, reliable childcare provision.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was agreed that all accident sheets would be countersigned by parents and that the child protection policy would be revised. These recommendations have been addressed, thus improving the level of safety for the children.

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):

- update the written information provided to parents including the policies and procedures.

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