

# Eye Spy Club at St. Oswalds

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY348386
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Liz Whitehead
<b>Setting Address</b>	St. Oswalds C of E Junior School, The Green, Guiseley, LEEDS, LS20 9BT
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<b>Registered person</b>	Eye Spy Club Ltd.
<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Eye Spy Club at St. Oswalds opened in 2007 and is situated within St Oswalds C of E Junior School, in Guiseley, a suburb of Leeds. It is open each week day, during term time, from 07.30 until 08.45 and from 15.30 until 18.00. During the school holidays it operates from 08.00 until 18.00.

The children have the use of the outside classroom, the library, the West Riding room, the hall and an adjoining outdoor area. The setting primarily offers care to children attending the school and may care for a maximum of 50 children at any one time. There are currently 45 children on roll. The setting employs a number of staff, at least half of whom hold an appropriate qualification.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about the importance of personal hygiene as good hygiene practice is promoted most of the time. The staff wash their hands prior to preparing food, however, children do not

always wash their hands before having a snack. They are fully aware of the importance of washing their hands after toileting and know that this is to 'get rid of germs'. A communal towel is used which does not reduce the risk of cross infection. Some children prefer to use hand cleansing gel which the staff are happy to provide. Staff consistently remind the children to wash their hands after holding the hamster.

During school holidays the children bring packed lunches, which are stored appropriately and are clearly labelled with their name to ensure that they only eat food that is intended for them. Staff encourage the children to eat healthily and each child is able to choose their snack from a range of healthy options. Regular discussions and activities, such as growing vegetables, extends children's awareness of eating healthily and taking care of themselves. Staff regularly offer fruit to the children and they talk about eating fruit for energy to enable them to run around and play.

Snack time is very relaxed and children are able to access their snack when they are ready to. This promotes their independence and decision making skills. Children recognise when they are thirsty and independently access drinks of juice and water. These are always available in jugs and staff ensure that they are kept topped up, especially in hot weather and when children are involved in more physical play.

Children have daily opportunities, weather permitting, for fresh air and are able to learn about the effect that exercise has on their body. They have the opportunity outdoors to ride scooters, run, play football and to skip. Indoors children enjoy playing snooker, air hockey and dancing to music which encourages them to stay fit and healthy. Children are as active as they choose to be and are also able to relax on the couch watching television.

To ensure that children only receive the correct medication the group consistently applies the policy. All medication is stored so that it is inaccessible to children at all times. Staff apply the sickness and exclusion policy to help reduce the risk of cross infection. Documents are readily available to parents detailing the minimum exclusion periods for common childhood illnesses, such as measles.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

All the toys and equipment are safe, clean, well maintained and conform to relevant safety standards to enable children to use them safely. In order to minimise risks and hazards to children risk assessments are regularly carried out. However, the car parking arrangements compromise children's safety. Additionally, the setting does not have a list of named drivers, with relevant insurance, who are able to transport children in their car.

To ensure that any minor accidents can be treated effectively a first aid kit is readily available in the room and is always taken on outings. Staff supervise the children very closely both indoors and outdoors, although bolts on the toilet doors are within children's reach. Effective systems prevent children from leaving unaccompanied and unwanted persons from entering the premises. Parents and visitors must be admitted by a member of staff, although, the log of visitors is not consistently maintained.

Children understand about evacuating the building in an emergency. Monthly practises take place, to ensure that all the children experience this and are fully aware of how to leave the

building quickly, calmly and effectively. The written procedure is displayed so that parents and visitors are also familiar with the routine.

Staff have a sound knowledge and awareness of how to protect children in their care. The child protection policy is readily available to ensure that parents are fully informed. All staff are aware of the nominated person responsible for ensuring that any issues are dealt with effectively and in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures. Staff regularly access training to update and increase their knowledge and skills. However, there is no system in place to record existing injuries to children.

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

The provision is good.

All themes and outings are planned in full consultation with the children to ensure that they are relevant and of interest to them. Some activities are planned in advance to ensure that all preparation is carried out and appropriate resources are available. These plans remain fully flexible to allow for spontaneity and for children to initiate activities. During the holidays the children thoroughly enjoy interesting and educational outings to museums and places of interest. Children state that they like to play at the club and they particularly like to look after Harry the Hamster and to play outside.

A broad range of activities are attractively set out to appeal to children's interests. These include a well stocked creative table, computer games and books. Children are continually practising and developing their language skills through talking to their peers and the staff, listening to music and reading books. When writing words on their pictures they help each other with the spelling. Staff instinctively use everyday activities, such as playing air hockey to further develop children's mathematical skills. They talk about the score and how many they have won by.

Children are confident decision makers and continually make selections, such as whom and what they wish to play with and what they would like to eat and drink at snack time. The whole focus of the club is on children learning through play whilst having fun and on activities being child led. Children are encouraged to fully participate in the activities as much or as little as they choose and they confidently move between the indoors and the outdoors. The television is positioned in the comfortable area where the books are located. Therefore, children need to sit at the tables to enable them to read quietly, which is not very relaxing or comfortable.

Children greatly benefit from good relationships with the staff. They are very skilful at knowing when to join in with and extend children's play and when to observe how it develops naturally. The children and staff share a warm relationship and they have lots of fun together. The children are very confident to approach staff and to independently select further equipment. The club has a lively but calm and relaxed atmosphere in which children feel at home and are able to share positive experiences with their friends and staff.

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

The provision is good.

Children's differing needs are met effectively as the staff know the children well. Staff consistently follow the involving and consulting children policy to ensure that children's views and opinions are valued and respected. Staff encourage the children to be really proud of their achievements. For example, they happily save their bead pictures for the children to finish the following day.

The setting has taken positive steps to enable them to care for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. The staff have accessed training and work closely with the parents to ensure that they are fully able to meet the children's needs. They consistently implement the policy and adapt activities to enable all children to access them.

Children develop an awareness of the diverse world in which they live through a wide range of activities and resources. Children understand about a range of cultures through celebrating festivals, such as Diwali, Halloween, Chinese New Year and Christmas. When possible snacks are linked to the themes and the children enjoy tasting foods from around the world. Children have the opportunity to learn about the community through close links with local childminders and schools. Children learn about those less fortunate than themselves through regularly participating in fundraising events.

Children are sensitive towards others and show care and concern for their peers, such as by taking the fruit to the children playing outdoors. The staff are very polite and courteous to the children and encourage them to say 'please' and 'thank you'. The children behave well and learn right from wrong through the positive attitude of the staff. They use appropriate methods, such as distraction and explanation, to manage any inappropriate behaviour. Children develop confidence and a positive self-image through receiving consistent and meaningful praise from the staff.

Relationships with parents are very good. Staff encourage them to become fully involved in the setting and they happily decorate the walls with murals and cook food for Diwali. Effective systems are in place to keep parents fully informed of their children's care and well-being at all times. These include a range of information available for parents on notice boards, for example, certificates of registration and public liability and relevant procedures. All parents receive an information pack and regular newsletters. All the staff are very approachable and daily discussions take place regarding the children's activities.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting is very warm and welcoming to children and their families, with photographs, posters and children's artwork thoughtfully displayed on the walls. This creates a stimulating and appealing environment. Children feel settled, secure and fully confident due to the effective settling in procedure. All new children are allocated a 'buddy' to show them around and help them settle in to the club. All the routines are carefully explained to new children.

The recruitment and selection of staff is appropriate and all relevant checks are completed. In order to protect children persons who have not been vetted are not left unsupervised. All new staff receive a full induction in order to familiarise them with the guidelines, routines, policies and procedures and they are mentored by an experienced member of staff.

Most of the staff hold a suitable qualification and at least one member of staff with a first aid certificate is always on duty. Adult to child ratios are consistently good which enables them to care for the children effectively. The staff all work very well together as a team, each aware of their individual roles and responsibilities. They are all very committed and enthusiastic about their role and regularly update and increase their knowledge and skills through accessing relevant training. Staff are proactive in keeping up to date with changes and have a copy of the Early Years Foundation Stage and are enrolled on a course to further their awareness.

All the required documentation is in place and is mostly well maintained. All sensitive records and information are appropriately stored to ensure that confidentiality is fully maintained at all times. The setting's unique policies and procedures are available for staff and parents to view. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

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. Since registration 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 QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. 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 systems for hand washing before snacks and to reduce the risk of cross infection
- improve children's safety with regard to locks on toilet doors, car parking arrangements and list of named drivers with relevant insurance
- maintain an accurate record of visitors and implement systems to record existing injuries to children.

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)