

Holly Spring After-School & Holiday Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	119263
Inspection date	27 July 2007
Inspector	Anne Jeanette Faithfull
Setting Address	Lily Hill Road, Bullbrook, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 2SW
Telephone number	07845 931359
E-mail	head@office.hollyspring-inf.bracknell-forest.sch.u
Registered person	Holly Spring After-School & Holiday 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?

Holly Spring After School and Holiday Club was registered in 1999. The club operates from two classrooms in the Holly Spring Infant School, Bracknell, Berkshire. The club gives priority to children who attend the infant and junior schools or are resident in the local community. Children from other schools in the area may attend the club.

The club is registered to provide care for 24 children between the ages of four to eight years old, and also accepts children up to the age of 11. There are currently 23 children on roll. The after school club is open five days a week during school term times between 15:20 - 18:00. The holiday club is open during the school holidays between 08:45 and 17:30.

There are six members of staff who work with the children, one full time and the rest work on a part time basis. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Other staff are working towards a childcare qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from illness and infection because the staff conscientiously follow current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines. Posters are displayed for staff and parents to see from the health protection agency reminding them of the steps to take for infection control in childcare settings. Staff are suitably qualified in first aid to enable them to appropriately treat children with minor injuries. They have first aid 'bump' bags in place so they can take them out with the children onto the playground, so they are able to deal with an incident or accident immediately. Children clearly understand simple good health and hygiene practices. They wash their hands before snack time, after using the bathroom and messy play.

Daily indoor and outdoor routines include activities to help children develop physical and gross motor skills and promote a healthy lifestyle. They make good use of the outdoor area, for example, playing on bikes and riding over ramps. This further promotes their coordination and balance. In hot weather children can use the paddling pool which further promotes their physical development as well as keeping them cool. Individual children gain confidence, test out their coordination as they play tennis with each other and members of staff. Good opportunities are provided inside for children's physical development for example, table tennis and making models out of clay.

Children enjoy nutritious snacks and meals, for example, children attending the holiday club have pizza and fresh fruit. Snack times are a sociable occasion where children sit together and talk about their morning; however children's independence skills are not promoted as staff pour their drinks for them. Meals are provided for children who attend the after school club and staff are aware of the children's likes and dislikes, such as providing pasta which is a favourite with a sauce or just left plain so children can choose their own topping. The children's dietary requirements are met well as staff work with parents in finding out their child's requirements and respectfully follow these.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, stimulating, indoor and outdoor environment. The two classrooms and the outdoor play area are appropriately organised ensuring a balanced range of activities for children. Children move around in a safe environment where risks are identified and minimised. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the health and safety policies and how to keep children safe. For example, they remind the children to put on the elbow and knee protectors when they are using the skateboards. Children are aware of the safety rules in place, for instance, children who are not in the juniors are not allowed to stand up on the skateboards and they are not to play on the field when the football club is using it. Children's knowledge of health and safety matters are further promoted by health and safety week where individuals from the police, network rail, a paramedic and the fire brigade come and talk to the children about various safety issues and how to keep themselves safe. Children demonstrate an understanding of emergency escape procedures and practise fire drills regularly.

Children confidently choose from an accessible, wide range of toys and equipment that are age appropriate. They develop independence as they choose from equipment, which is easily

accessed. The resources are clean, safe and well maintained to ensure the children's safety. Staff are vigilant when children are using the paddling pool, parental permission is sought and boys and girls have a separate changing area.

All children are well protected as there are clear child protection procedures in place. A staff child protection sheet is in place to record any concerns regarding a member of staff. Staff have a good awareness of possible signs and symptoms of abuse and their responsibility to report such concerns in line with local authority procedures to protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children talk positively about their experiences in the holiday club. They develop good relationships with each other and enjoy meeting other children who attend different schools. Older children show a high level of enthusiasm when looking after younger children, helping them to settle and become confident. Children participate in activities that are stimulating, challenging and fun. There are weekly themes in place and a range of daily activities are linked to the theme. For example, Wild West week gave the children the opportunity to dress up as cowboys, make cowboy pies and play games of poker. Children help to plan and evaluate the activities on offer to ensure their continuing enjoyment and participation. They have the opportunity to take part in activities individually or as part of a group, such as making individual clay models or singing along in a group to their favourite pop song on the karaoke machine. Staff encourage children to complete their homework when attending the after school club before they become too tired and offer the children a quiet area and their guidance and support.

Children readily approach staff and visitors to take part in their games or to show them items they have made or found for example, a child had found a baby newt. Staff readily responded by providing a container, so other children could look at the newt, answering children's questions, and then helped the child put the newt back into the pond area. Staff expertly promote language development well through their constant interaction and conversation with the children, for instance, talking with the children about their favourite television programme and playing computer games with the children, talking about the colours and shapes they are making on the screen. This further promotes children's development and learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff give lots of praise, support and encouragement that helps children develop confidence and good self-esteem. Children's behaviour is very good. The staff are good role models and have strategies in place for achieving appropriate behaviour. Children are encouraged to share and play harmoniously. They contribute to the making of ground rules and are aware that certain rules and respect are required to maintain a safe and fair environment, where they can play happily and have fun. Children are aware of good manners and show each other care and concern, as they immediately say sorry if they have accidentally bumped into someone whilst playing. Children benefit from activities that help them to become increasingly aware of the wider world, for instance children have the opportunity to play African drums. They explore various festivals and celebrate birthdays. There are good systems in place to support children with learning disabilities and difficulties, including extra staff if required, to provide further support for the child to ensure they are able to be fully included in the holiday club and participate in all of the activities and experiences on offer.

The partnership with parents is good. Children and staff encourage the parents to become involved in the holiday club, for instance, each child writing letters to their parents or carer asking them if they would participate in the fancy dress competition for Wild West week. Parents are consulted and asked to sign consent forms stating whether or not they will allow their child to watch PG films during their time at the club. Staff are aware to adhere to parents' wishes regarding their child. Staff receive thank you cards from parents and children expressing the positive time and fun they had at the after school and holiday club. Parents, if required, receive verbal feedback on a daily basis about their child's activities and they can also discuss any concerns they may have. This effective communication between parents and staff helps to promote children's welfare, safety and developmental progress and provides consistency and care for all children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Effective recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are protected and cared for by staff. The manager and the committee are committed to improving the quality of care they provide for children and staff are encouraged to attend further training, for example, the manager and another member of staff have recently attended training on child protection and home abuse. Children are appropriately supervised both indoors and outdoors and staff work well as a team, as they access and respond to the children's interests. Children are able to access all toys and equipment safely and freely.

Children are happy and settled in a calm environment and enjoy choosing activities from the interesting and fun options available. The two classrooms are used effectively to ensure the children experience a range of different types of activities, for instance, quiet area including art and craft and a noisy games area with children playing the drums. All children's records are in place and correctly maintained. The names of the children and staff are recorded each day; however times of attendance are not recorded. A range of policies and procedures are used to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. Information is shared regularly with parents to keep them up to date with the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were given. These were to update child protection procedures to include allegations made against a member of staff and to update all contact numbers for outside agencies to be contacted in the event of a concern regarding a child's welfare. The child protection procedures have been updated to include what the setting should do if an allegation is made against a member of staff. A list is now available of the contact numbers of outside agencies. This further promotes the care and welfare of 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):

- develop children's independent skills at snack and mealtimes
- record times of attendance of children and 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