

Beechwood Childcare - St Alphege CofE JuniorSchool

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	250016
Inspection date	12 September 2007
Inspector	Karen Eunice Millerchip
Setting Address	St Alphege Junior School, Widney Manor Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3JG
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Registered person	Beechwood Childcare Limited
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?

St Alphege Out of School Club opened in 1996 and is part of the Beechwood chain of settings. The club operates from within St Alphege Junior School. The club provides a service for children attending the school. Children have access to a large class room, boys and girls toilets and a fully enclosed outdoor play facility.

In total there are 32 children between seven and 11 years on roll, of these four children are under eight years. The group supports children with English as an additional language and children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The group opens Monday to Friday during school term time. Sessions are from 8:00 to 9:00 and 15:45 to 18:00.

There are two members of staff working with the children. The supervisor holds a Level 3 qualification in play work.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are gaining a good understanding of keeping themselves healthy. They are aware of good practice with regard to their own personal care and all children are fully independent. Staff hygiene routines are thorough and the risk of cross-infection is minimised. The risk to children from unsafe food is minimal because of good daily routines and sound storage. A new healthy eating programme is being introduced so snacks consist of a wide range of fresh fruits. Children sit together at snack time in a relaxed and sociable environment.

Children's best interests are served in case of accident or illness because there is always a member of staff on duty who holds an up to date first aid certificate and first aid boxes are readily available. Parents are aware that their child should not attend if he or she has a contagious illness and information on exclusion periods is provided to prevent the spread of infection.

Children's emotional well-being is well fostered due to good staff support and encouragement. They often have an opportunity to play in the playground prior to the school day and are able to choose outdoor physical play during after-school sessions. They play games use skipping ropes, bats and balls in the playground to develop throwing, catching and precision skills when shooting for goal during football games or 'taking shots' at the basketball ring.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in clean and generally safe premises. Staff are aware of the importance of keeping the children safe and regularly assess hazards that may impact on them. However, although risk assessments have been developed to minimise hazards to children staff do not regularly follow them. This potentially compromises children's safety. Children are learning about keeping themselves safe and understand where they are allowed to play and inform staff when they leave the room to go to the toilet. Sound procedures are followed to ensure children do not leave the premises unsupervised.

Toys, resources and equipment are clean and maintained in a safe condition. The rooms are well organised and children have space for movement and play and have good access to activities. Tidy, accessible storage promotes children's independence as they easily identify resources and equipment and make free choices. They take responsibility for tidying up after themselves to provide a safe environment. Children are aware of the emergency escape procedure and have opportunities to practise this. To further improve their safety they also practise the procedure to follow should an unknown adult gain access to the playground.

Children are appropriately protected from harm or abuse. All staff are aware of their responsibilities to the children in their care. They have a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues and the procedure to follow if there are any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, self-assured and are encouraged to share their views about where they play and what they like to do. They can relax or be active and although initially the room is set out by staff, they are encouraged to self-select other resources according to their own interests. Toys and books have been chosen well to meet the needs of the differing age range that attend. Children are sociable and are keen to play and be involved. They are encouraged and supported by staff and sound relationships have developed.

The routine of the session is well balanced and space is used effectively to provide activities such as, art and craft, small construction, space for reading or playing board games. They are free to move around so that all have equal access to resources and are supported in doing this by caring staff. Children have daily opportunities to be outside and enjoy playing games or chatting with their friends.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are known and addressed well by staff. Admission forms are completed in consultation with parents and children. This ensures staff are able to provide appropriate challenge and support for all. Children are confident and secure with familiar routines and new children to the club are welcomed and supported by existing club members. Children are learning to appreciate and value each other's similarities, differences and beliefs. They are able to choose books and toys that reflect diversity and develop an understanding of other cultures through art and craft and discussion. Although there are no children currently attending with learning disabilities and/or difficulties positive systems are in place to support children and families with identified needs. Well developed links with school are in place to enable the sharing of advice and guidance from other professionals and parents.

Policies and procedures are displayed and accessible to parents to keep them informed of their child's care. Children's self-esteem is fostered as they benefit from staff practice which gives priority to developing social skills, confidence, self-discipline and respect for each other. They are aware of staff expectations for good behaviour and they have helped to draw up club rules which are displayed on the wall. Children behave very well and show consideration for each other because staff are good role models and respect children's views.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean welcoming environment, where space is effectively used to provide children with a suitable range of activities. The sessions are planned to enable children to experience both indoor and outdoor play opportunities. Appropriate documentation is in place and stored securely to maintain confidentiality. Children's welfare, care and learning is supported generally well by the staff team's implementation of the setting's policies and procedures.

Staff at the club are experienced and enthusiastic. They have a high regard for the well-being of the children and make their care first priority. Staff meet at the beginning and end of each session to evaluate and review the day's events. They are encouraged to undertake regular

training provided by the company to ensure they are kept informed of new initiatives. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to review several policies and procedures including the system for recording accidents. To ensure the policies and procedures reflect the running of the club and to make all information available to parents. All required policies and procedures are in place, reflect the running of the group and appropriate recording systems have been developed and implemented. All are accessible to parents thereby promoting children's welfare.

They also agreed to review the organisation of the room to provide a better range of activities for all children and to improve the selection of resources and experiences that improve children's understanding of diversity and equality. The organisation of the room provides children with a free choice of activities, to relax or to be active outdoors. The variety of toys and resources that help develop children's knowledge of diversity and equality have been increased and they are freely available to all children.

The provider also agreed to display the fire evacuation procedure this is now clearly displayed in all areas thereby promoting children's well-being.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 risks assessments are implemented

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