

Woodlands After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY348178

Inspection date 14 November 2007

Inspector Kate Bryan

Setting Address Highcliffe Cp School, Greengate Lane, Birstall, LEICESTER, LE4 3DL

Telephone number 0116 267 5427

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Registered person Woodlands Day Nursery

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?

Woodlands After School Club registered in 2007. It is privately owned and registered to provide after school care for up to 24 children from four years to eight years of age. Children over eight years may also attend. It opens during school term times from 15:00 until 18:00 and from 08:00 to 18:00 during some school holidays. The group runs from the community room at Highcliffe Primary School in Birstall and serves Birstall and the surrounding area. The group can offer support to children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children with English as an additional language.

Children are grouped together in one large room, they also have access to the school hall, toilet and kitchen facilities. A concrete playground and school field are available for outdoor activities.

Three staff work with the children and all hold relevant qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's hygiene is well maintained as staff use measures such as wiping tables with anti-bacterial spray to ensure they are clean. Children also enjoy this activity so they have good practical activities to support their learning about health. They are made aware by discussion of the importance of hygiene and know why they must wash their hands. Children are well protected from the risks of contagious illnesses due to exclusion periods which ensure the risks of cross-contamination are reduced. They also use paper towels in the toilet to reduce this risk.

Children are learning about how to keep their bodies healthy by participating in a good range of physical activities and games. They enjoy being outside daily and thoroughly enjoy team games involving hopping, running and skipping and football. They also have good access to exercise indoors as they play Twister and access the large hall which they can use for activities which include ball games and races.

Children learn about healthy eating through the use of topic work and have a range of practical activities to support this such as making sandwiches and fruit salads. They enjoy snacks of fruit and crackers and spread these themselves with butter and pastes, they also have a drink of water at this time. However, they do not have access to water throughout the session which means they are not learning as effectively as possible to be responsible for their own needs. Staff are vigilant about children's allergies and attempt to be clear about the ingredients in all food. Where this is not possible they substitute products to ensure children are always well protected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Clear safety policies and procedures and the effective deployment of staff ensures that children are cared for in a safe environment. For example, staff maintain contact with each other through the use of mobile phones and children are reminded not to leave the room unsupervised. A comprehensive risk assessment and fire risk assessment have also been completed to ensure children's safety is well maintained both indoors and outdoors. Children clearly understand the rules which keep them safe, for example why they cannot leave the room on their own, and they receive explanations about this so they learn to be responsible for their own safety.

All children are well settled at the group and staff spend time talking to them individually so they feel welcome. The setting is well organised so children can move around safely and access a good range of resources and materials which comply with safety regulations. Resources are varied and of good quality to ensure children can maximise their enjoyment at the group whilst also being safe. Regular cleaning and checking of equipment ensure that children's safety is well promoted. Staff also make sure that children can use tables and chairs which are suitable for their height so they can work and eat in safety. All fire prevention equipment is maintained in line with education authority procedures so children's safety is promoted.

Children are well protected because staff understand their role in child protection and are confident to put appropriate procedures into practice. A clear child protection policy is in place which details how children will be protected and allegations against staff dealt with.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Planning is effective in ensuring that children can access a good range of activities designed to stimulate their interest and enjoyment such as outdoor activities and decorating biscuits. Activities are evaluated so staff can build on what has worked well and what the children found interesting and enjoyable. Monthly themes also ensure that children have a variety of activities relating to topics such as health. Staff ensure that a physical activity is also planned daily as they know the children like to be outdoors. Children can also select from quieter activities such as completing their homework. Children have good opportunities to develop independence and choice as they move freely around the room and initiate their own play from a range of free flow activities which include sticking, painting, stencils, junk modelling, board games, jigsaws, play dough, toys and books.

Children receive good opportunities to play alone or in small groups which means they have well developed social skills and learn to take turns and share in activities such as icing biscuits. Older children also help younger children, for example in taking their coats off, so a relaxed and nurturing atmosphere is created. Warm relationships are in place between the staff and children who happily engage staff in activities such as circle time. Staff actively seek children's opinions about activities they would like to have at the club so they have good levels of input into enjoying and achieving. Children are happy and settled at the club and speak positively of their time there.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

A useful policy about equal opportunities and English as an additional language underpin practice at the club. This means that all children's experiences and backgrounds are valued and the group actively put measures in place to communicate with all children and parents. This is achieved by using key words, flash cards and using translators if required. Children are positively encouraged to participate in a range of activities which help them to learn about the world in which they live. For example, joining in with a Halloween party and activities connected with Diwali such as colouring pictures. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities receive an individual service and are positively included in all activities. Staff ensure they are aware of children's needs and adapt activities to ensure all children feel a good sense of belonging.

Children can make a positive contribution to the group as they have devised their own rules for the club such as listening to staff. They also help to clean tables and give out plates so they have a good sense of belonging and involvement. A behaviour management policy is in place and strategies used by staff are age appropriate and consistent with children's developmental age. For example, staff re-direct children's energies and give lots of praise so they know their positive behaviour has been acknowledged. Children behave well and older children set good examples to younger children, for example as they sit appropriately at tables to have their snack.

Staff are available to talk with parents daily and share in their child's achievements, children also proudly take home work such as biscuits they have decorated. A good range of information is shared with parents via a monthly newsletter and an introductory handbook which contains the club's aims and policies and procedures. This also contains a disc so parents can download policies and procedures. A policy regarding the partnership with parents underpins the club's commitment to working with them to ensure children enjoy their time there.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's safety is given a high priority at the group and this is promoted as robust recruitment procedures are in place to select staff. All staff are vetted and children are never left alone with anyone who has not been cleared. Staffing levels ensure that children are well supported in activities and have the opportunity and confidence to explore their environment and initiate their own play. Clear induction procedures and regular discussions between staff ensure children receive a consistent, quality service. Staff's training needs are identified at yearly appraisals and staff have attended a range of training which includes basic food hygiene, first aid and child protection. This means children benefit from staff who are motivated to undertake training.

Children have input into the activities they would like at the group so they feel a good sense of belonging. The group is roughly divided into age related groups so that younger children can enjoy activities such as physical exercise in safety. Children's welfare, learning and care are promoted effectively by the use of clear policies and procedures. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

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 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):

- make sure that children have access to fresh drinking water at all times.

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