

APPLEDORE OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	106291
Inspection date	01 August 2007
Inspector	Valerie Button
Setting Address	Kingsley Avenue, Appledore, Bideford, Devon, EX39 1PF
Telephone number	(01237) 474365
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Registered person	Appledore Out of School Club
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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?

Appledore Before and After School Club opened in 1999. The wraparound service and holiday scheme opened in 2000. Premises used are a portable building, with kitchen and toilet facilities, in the grounds of Appledore County Primary School. Care is offered to the children of the local community. There are currently a total of 120 children on roll using the clubs. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports children with recognised disabilities.

The before and after school club and wraparound service opens five days a week during term time only. Sessions are from 07.45 until 17.45. This incorporates two wraparound sessions. The holiday scheme opens every school holiday except Christmas. Sessions are from 08.45 until 17.30. Registration for the after school club and the holiday club is to care for 24 children at any one time. Registration for the breakfast club and the wraparound care is for 16 children at any one time.

Four permanent staff work between all aspects of the provision and all permanent staff are appropriately qualified. They are joined by other bank staff and volunteers as necessary. The club receives support from the adjoining school and also from Local Authority advisory staff.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to become independent with self-help skills, for example, washing their hands after visiting the toilet or engaging in messy play activities. They are taught the reasons why this is important. Children's health is safeguarded by staff who hold current first aid certificates, complete accurate accident records and carefully noted information about children's health and dietary needs. Very good attention is given to recording any accidents that happen, and informing children's parents of these, so that children's welfare is supported. Parents have given written permission for staff, who are qualified first aiders, to administer basic first aid to their children. However, this has not been extended so that staff have permission to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment. This compromises the children's welfare in an emergency situation. Meticulous attention is given to ensuring that children are protected from the sun, by the application of sun cream and insistence on wearing hats.

Children enjoy their healthy snacks. Snack times are social occasions. Children are encouraged to eat healthily when eating their packed lunches. These are not stored in a refrigerator, so parents must provide ice packs in their children's lunch boxes to ensure that the contents are maintained at a safe temperature. Excellent attention is given to encouraging children to drink plenty of water. Staff check to ensure that children have plenty to drink at lunch time and they help themselves to drinks from the table throughout the hot day. Fruit is also made freely available to children.

Children benefit from plenty of robust physical exercise, for example, in the good spaces available outdoors. A very strong emphasis is placed on ensuring that children benefit from fresh air and exercise. This is supported well by the various play areas in the school grounds and by good use of additional resources. Children use equipment in sand trays to support the development of their small movement skills. They enjoy using large construction sets outside.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is supported by well-implemented procedures. Risk assessments are undertaken as well as daily checks of the site. The open school site cannot be made totally secure. However, children's safety is maintained by the diligent supervision of the staff.

Children enjoy using a very good range of safe, well-organised resources and equipment. Resources are readily available to children, so that they are able to access them safely and independently.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised by the diligent supervision of the staff. Necessary safety measures are carefully explained to them. The accident record is meticulously maintained.

Very good attention has been given to practising emergency evacuation from the premises, in order to ensure that children and staff are familiar with procedures and that they are feasible. Good records are kept of practices, which are carried out in conjunction with the school during school hours, but independently at other times, such as during the holiday club. Emergency evacuation procedures are displayed and children are given easily accessible information about this by a good visual representation of procedures to be followed.

Children's safety is supported by staff's sound understanding of the child protection procedure. They have attended training, are aware of their responsibilities and supported by sound guidance, policies and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's enjoyment of activities is very clear; they are sometimes reluctant to go home because they fear they will miss exciting activities! The holiday club provision observed during the inspection was of high quality. Children benefit from the strong emphasis placed on providing fun activities, such as, visits to 'the jungle' wooded area in the school grounds or the water slide provided. Activities are planned and available for children to choose, for example, craft and construction tasks, use of 'ride-on' toys or playing football. Different activities are scheduled for different times of the day, to provide variety, sustain children's interest and provide things for them to look forward to, such as the use of the water slide. Children benefit from choosing to play indoors or out; from opportunities to rest or be active. Staff are skilled at interacting with children. Children's efforts are valued and encouraged. They respond well to the staff's calm, interested approach. Staff monitor and evaluate the success of the activities they carefully plan and provide for the children's enjoyment and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are confident and enjoy good relationships with staff and each other. They are encouraged to help each other, for example, with older children supporting those who are younger. There is a clear policy of inclusion, for example, funding is obtained to support children with disabilities on a one-to-one basis. Topic work enables children to learn about other cultures.

Children behave well. Behaviour management is a significant strength of the setting. Additional guidance is clearly displayed in the room for both staff and children. There are fourteen basic rules, devised with the children, which are followed to enable all to play happily together. Signed behaviour contracts with parents set out expectations very clearly and give clear information on unacceptable behaviours. Staff treat children with respect and they respond in like fashion.

Parents receive good information about the care of their children. Warm relationships are observed between staff and parents, who value the caring service offered. Children benefit from the friendly and useful interchanges of information between staff and their parents. This means that children are cared for in accordance with their parent's wishes and that their individual care needs are well-met. The 'Grievance Procedure' booklet, displayed in the room, invites parents to give both positive and negative feedback on the provision. It includes the Ofsted complaints templates. The written Complaints Policy and Procedure, and the Welcome Pack for Parents both refer to the involvement of Ofsted if complaints cannot be resolved successfully by staff and the management committee. However, information on how to contact Ofsted, as the regulator of the provision, is not easy for parents to access, for example, the information is not displayed in the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children play in a well organised setting where they are cared for by staff who are enthusiastic and interested in their work with children. The staff team works together very well and they are committed to ongoing professional development and training, which enhances the experiences of the children in their care. The play environment, both indoors and out, is planned to provide activities that are interesting and exciting for children. Good adult to child ratios are maintained so that children receive prompt attention when they need it. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Ongoing evaluations of the service provided demonstrate careful monitoring of the programme offered to children. The setting has noted advice offered by local authority advisors and has acted on this, for example, to update their documentation. A lot of work on policies and procedures has been undertaken. However, clear consent from parents regarding emergency medical advice or treatment for their children is lacking and parents lack easy access to information about how to contact Ofsted, as the regulator of the provision. Most staff, currently working at the holiday club, also work at the other care sessions run on the premises. Many of the children using the holiday club also attend other sessions offered during term time. In this way a consistent service is offered.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was asked that designated fire exits be kept clear at all times. No fire exits were blocked during this inspection visit; keeping these clear is part of ongoing checks and risk assessments undertaken to support the children's safety.

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):

- ensure that clear, written parental permission for emergency medical advice or treatment is requested for all children attending

- clarify information for parents on how to contact Ofsted, as the regulator of the provision, for example, if they need to make a complaint; make this information easily accessible and readily available to parents.

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