

# Loddon Out Of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	148663
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Anne Jeanette Faithfull

<b>Setting Address</b>	Loddon Junior School, Hillside Road, Earley, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 7LP
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<b>Registered person</b>	Loddon Out of School Club
<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?

The Loddon Out of School Club is situated in the grounds of Loddon Junior School. The out of school club consists of a breakfast club which opens from 07:45 to 8:50, Monday to Friday term time only, after school club from 15:15 to 17:45, Monday to Friday term time only and holiday club which is open school holidays 08:30 to 17:45, Monday to Friday. The club uses various areas around the school including the school grounds. Children from the school and the local community attend the clubs.

The out of school club is registered for no more than 32 children from four years to under eight years at any one time, the holiday club also has children up to the age of 11 years old attending. There are currently 100 children on roll, all of whom attend various sessions at the breakfast, after school and holiday club. Three members of staff work with the children, one member of staff has a childcare qualification and another is in the process of taking an appropriate childcare qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children begin to learn about healthy eating through being offered a healthy snack at the after school and holiday club. Snack time is a sociable occasion with children sitting together chatting. They have the choice of fruit or a biscuit. However, staff give the children their biscuit from the container and pour the drinks for the children, therefore children do not have the opportunity to pour their own drinks and develop their independence skills. Staff are aware of children's food allergies and diet requirements as all information is discussed with parents before their child starts.

Children are encouraged to be independent in their personal hygiene and are aware of simple routines, such as washing their hands after using the toilet and before snack time. However, the children all dry their hands on one towel, this is not consistent in preventing the spread of germs or promoting good hygiene. Children are becoming aware of health procedures as staff remind them to put on their sun hats before going outside and to drink plenty of water as it is hot and they will become dehydrated.

Children have daily opportunities to be active and play outside in the fresh air. They play football, tennis and team games. Their control and coordination is further promoted by them using skipping ropes and scooters. They have opportunities when participating in art and craft activities to use scissors, pens and paints. This further promotes their fine motor skills.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a safe and secure environment. Staff are vigilant in keeping the children safe. For example, the school is having major building work completed during the holiday, and staff ensure they liaise with the builders each day to find out the areas of the school they are going to be working in. This ensures the children remain safe and children are prevented from accessing those areas. Children are escorted to the playground and main toilets by the staff to ensure they do not come in contact with persons who are not vetted. Staff and children practise the fire evacuation procedures with the children who attend the after school club and the school, however children who attend the holiday club have not yet practised the fire evacuation procedures to inform them of the steps to take in the event of an emergency or fire.

Staffs have a general knowledge and understanding of health and safety requirements and carry out daily visual risk assessments to ensure children's safety. Children have access to a suitable range of toys and play equipment. They select items independently from containers, cupboards and tables situated around the hall. Toys and equipment used by the children are checked each day and any broken toys or equipment are immediately removed. Space is used well to enable the children to play on the floor for example, building the train set and role play in the home corner.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by staff being aware of the club's child protection procedures. They recognise their responsibilities towards the children in their care. Telephone numbers and local child protection guidance and procedures are available.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, well settled and follow an established routine. They have the opportunity to access a wide range of activities, resources and experiences. These include role play items, books, construction, computer games, and colouring. Children enjoy taking part in making a life size collage of a child and sticking different materials and media onto the paper. Children readily comment to the inspector about their favourite board games, such as Simpson's Monopoly and Othello. Imaginative play is encouraged well as staff respond to children's requests for example, providing the children with a sheet to make their own tent as they did not want to use the tent the club provides for them.

Children readily participate in the planned theme of the week "the seaside" and help to make a large display of a shipwreck and an underwater scene. They colour their own individual picture of the seaside and display them attractively around the hall. Staff have planned further activities linked to the theme for example, sand pictures. A wipe board is in place and this informs children of the planned activities they can participate in, for instance, clay modelling. Staff have built up an appropriate rapport with the children. There is a good sense of fun present which helps children to feel relaxed. Staff are friendly and kind which helps the children develop their confidence. They are interested in what the children do and say. They sit with them and help them with their activities for example, building the train set and playing board games together.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about the wider world by talking to staff about the various countries they are going to on holiday, how they are going to get there and what the weather may be like. Birthdays, festivals and events are celebrated with children bringing in items for home, for example, if it is their birthday they will bring in a cake to share with the other children. The club operates an inclusive approach and welcomes children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, adapting activities and resources to ensure all children are able to fully participate.

Children are well behaved and show respect for each other and the adults working with them. They are aware of the rules and boundaries in place including when the supervisor blows the whistle they are very aware they must stop what they are doing and listen to what she has to say. Children share and take turns when playing board games and are eager to please and readily help tidy up when required. Continuous praise and encouragement from the staff builds children's self-esteem. Children develop a sense of self through this positive attitude.

Children's individual needs are respected because the parents complete a comprehensive registration form before a child can attend any of the clubs. The form provides the staff with the necessary information regarding their health and emergency contacts. Information for parents is displayed on the notice board. A range of policies and procedures are in place for the parents to access if required, however some lack the necessary detail, for example, there is no reference to the club's complaints procedure. Therefore, parents are not fully informed of the procedures they should follow if they have a complaint. The supervisor and staff receive lots of thank you cards from the children and parents at the end of the school year, and the children comment on how they will miss coming to the after school and holiday clubs.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The club is well organised with opportunities for children to pursue their own ideas and games or to participate in a range of planned activities. The staff team work well together to provide appropriate care and attention, to meet the needs of the children. The children are happy, settled and secure. Most documentation that contributes to the children's care is in place. Children's and staff's attendance is recorded well to ensure an accurate record is effectively maintained enabling staff to know who is present at any one time.

Staff deployment ensures children are never left unsupervised with persons not vetted. This contributes to children's safety. Staff are supported well by the chairperson and committee. The chairperson regularly visits the after school and holiday club to offer her support and meets with the supervisor to discuss any concerns or issues. Staff attend training on a regular basis to further increase their knowledge of childcare and the appraisal system in place highlights any future training needs. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the setting had four recommendations regarding documentation; all four recommendations have been addressed to further promote the welfare and care 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 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):

- develop children's independent skills at snack time
- ensure children follow good hygiene practices when washing and drying their hands
- further improve the fire evacuation procedures by practising them with the children when they attend the holiday club to ensure they are aware of the procedures in place
- ensure a system is available for the recording of complaints which parents can see on request

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)