

# Schools Out Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY249230
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sarah Jane Wignall
<b>Setting Address</b>	Pondhu School, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DS
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<b>Registered person</b>	Yvonne Smith
<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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Schools Out Club Pondhu is a privately owned out of school and breakfast club. It opened in 2002 and operates from the school hall and classroom in Pondhu Primary School. It is situated in the town of St Austell, in Cornwall. A maximum of 50 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The club is open five days a week from 07.30 until 09.00 and 15.00 until 18.15 during term times and from 07.30 until 18.15 on Saturdays, all year round, and during school holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed play area.

There are currently 200 children from four to eight years on roll. Children come from the local area. The setting currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club employs 14 members of staff, 12 of whom hold appropriate early years or play work qualifications. The setting receives support from Family Services.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children benefit as they are cared for in bright and warm premises where they have access to good amounts of outdoor play space. Staff encourage children to follow suitable procedures with regards to hand washing and all children wash hands before eating. Staff follow appropriate procedures when preparing tables for lunch. These are cleared and wiped with spray before children sit down to eat. Suitable accident and medication record forms are in place and shared with parents, and staff have easy access to a suitable first aid box. However children's health is compromised as several staff do not hold current first aid certificates. The registered person does not always ensure there is a member of staff with current first aid on the premises at all times, and some children's records containing medical details are not available on the premises.

Children are provided with mid day snacks that include fresh fruit and savoury items. Children staying all day bring a packed lunch. Staff place small ice blocks in lunch boxes to keep them cool during hot weather. Children have easy access to drinks throughout the day and they are encouraged to have a drink at mealtimes. Information about special diets and allergies is recorded.

Children enjoy lots of opportunities to play outdoors. Staff organise the session so that children can choose whether to play indoors or out. Many children bring their own bikes and equipment to use during outdoor play. Children enjoy playing football, skipping or running about with friends.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a suitable environment where staff follow appropriate procedures to help keep children safe. The setting is well supplied with suitable fire fighting equipment which is maintained by the school. Staff have developed a fire evacuation plan and this is periodically practised with the children. Staff undertake risk assessments before any visits off site and ensure that children are supervised by designated staff members. Organisation of daily sessions allows children a choice of playing outside. Staff have developed effective procedures for supervising children when both indoors and out.

Children have access to an adequate range of resources, most of which are selected by staff and set out ready for play. Lack of storage within the setting means that staff bring additional items in when required. Staff take time each week to wash toys and remove any broken or damaged items. Children are aware of safety rules within the setting and line up and walk sensibly when going outside to play or in to wash hands. Children ask to use scissors before helping themselves.

The registered person and staff demonstrate an adequate understanding of child protection procedures and are aware of agencies to contact if concerned about a child in their care. They keep written records of any incidents which are shared with parents and other agencies when required.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled at the setting and many report that they enjoy attending. During holiday times staff plan a main activity for each day such as making alien masks or building a tardis out of junk and other materials. Children have good relationships with each other and older children enjoy helping staff and younger children. Staff deployment is effective during the session with staff offering help where it is needed for instance in helping children to make their models or in sitting with children to play cards or board games.

Sessions are relaxed and informal and children can choose from the range of activities available. Children particularly enjoy the three planned visits offsite during the holidays where they visit local attractions.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit as staff demonstrate a good understanding of their individual needs. Several children have attended for long periods of time and staff have developed good relationships with them. Staff work well with parents in meeting the needs of children with learning difficulties. They follow the same systems used at home for recognising different behaviour resulting in a closer continuity of care. Children who require it are provided with individual adult support. Children have some opportunities to learn about the local community as they visit the local woods and places of interest on their day trips out.

Children are well behaved. They respond appropriately when asked by staff to stop shouting or to play nicely with friends. They are encouraged to help at tidy up time and to ask permission to go outside to play. Children have been involved in developing some simple club rules which are displayed on the notice board. These include things such as 'don't play on the bank outside' and 'use appropriate manners'. Staff occasionally use circle time as a way of reminding children of these rules. Staff regularly reward children with verbal praise and encouragement for their efforts.

Staff have developed suitable relationships with parents where information is exchanged on an informal basis. Parents have access to a box of information which is put out each session and includes copies of policies and procedures and other information. Children's work is displayed around the main play room giving parents the opportunity to see some of the activities they have been involved with.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are cared for by suitably qualified and committed staff. The registered person has taken some steps to improve the organisation of the setting and to better organise the documentation. However while much of this is now in place and available for inspection she has not ensured that the names, address and dates of birth of all children on the premises are recorded and available for inspection. As a result children's health and safety is compromised.

The registered person has not made herself fully aware of staff members that hold current first aid certificates. As a result some sessions run without a staff member that holds a current first

aid certificate, which places children at risk. Overall the setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the provider was asked to ensure Ofsted is informed of staff changes when they happen and the appropriate forms are forwarded to the regional centre. They were also asked to ensure all policies and procedures are written in line with the National Standards especially in relation to the lost child policy and the child protection policy.

The registered person is aware of the need to inform Ofsted of staff changes and as a result we are able to assess the suitability of new managers. The registered person is aware that the child protection policy needs further updating following recent changes. All other policies and procedures have been updated and as a result children's care is enhanced.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been two complaints made to Ofsted since the 1st April 2004. Concerns were raised in June 2004 in relation to National Standard 6: Safety, that the procedures for collecting children from school were unsafe. Concerns centred around there not being enough space for children in the car and some children being asked to walk alongside the car as it drove to the out of school club. Concerns were also raised that the driver was speaking on her mobile phone while driving.

Ofsted wrote and asked the provider to investigate these concerns. After several attempts Ofsted received a reply from the provider and followed this up with a phone call. The provider confirmed that they had followed this up with all staff and especially with the driver who was not following correct procedures. The setting confirmed that they had purchased a mini bus in which to accommodate all the children safely. Ofsted decided that no further action was required and the provider remained qualified for registration at the time the investigation was closed.

Concerns were also received in January 2006 in relation to National Standard 1: Suitability and National Standard 3: Care, Learning and play. We conducted an unannounced visit where the provider was required to take action to ensure that the times of children's arrival at the club are appropriately recorded. Having received the providers response it was decided that no further action was required and the provider remained qualified for registration at the time the investigation was closed. 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 provider has not recorded all complaints made to Ofsted by parents.

## 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure the name, home address and date of birth of each child who is looked after on the premises is recorded
- ensure that at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate is on the premises or on outings at any one time.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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)