

Reepham Rascals Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY235703
Inspection date	11 December 2007
Inspector	Margaret Elizabeth Roberts
Setting Address	Reepham Primary School, School Road, Reepham, Norwich, Norfolk, NR10 4JP
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Registered person	The Trustees of Reepham After School Club
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 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?

Reepham Rascals Out of School Club opened in 2002. It operates from the school canteen situated in the grounds of Reepham Primary School and has access to the school hall, library, drama and computer room. A maximum of 24 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The club is open each weekday for breakfast club from 08:00 until 08:45 and out of school care from 15:20 until 18:00 for 37 weeks of the year. A holiday scheme also operates from the same premises from 08:00 until 18:00 during the school holidays. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area. There are currently 30 children from four to under eight years on roll, although children of up to 12 may attend. Children come from the wide catchment area. The out of school club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club employs six staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health is not promoted satisfactorily because staff do not always implement good hygiene practices or encourage children to learn about personal hygiene. For example, staff come in from having been outside and begin food preparation such as grating cheese still wearing their hats and coats. Children sit at the table, helping themselves to the grated cheese with their fingers before washing their hands after playing outside. These practises can lead to a spread of infection. Children's medical needs can be met reasonably well because staff are trained in first aid and parents have given written permission for the seeking of any emergency treatment that may be required. However, children's medical needs are compromised on some occasions because the recording of accidents is not always accurate.

Children are provided with regular drinks and food which is adequate in quantity and complies with their dietary requirements. Healthy snacks and meals are offered during the sessions and include fresh fruit, cereals and dairy products. Fresh drinking water is available to children at all times to ensure that they do not go thirsty.

Children have many opportunities to play outside in all types of weather, where they are able to use the school playing field and playground. A limited range of outdoor equipment and the lack of support from staff during this time results in children not being engaged in purposeful play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are unable to play safely within the setting or outside area because staff do not ensure that proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents. Children have access to the kitchen area where staff boil large pans of water, to cook pasta, on cookers which are adjacent to activity tables. These are then carried to a sink in the corner of the room to drain through areas where young children are playing. The radiators are not guarded and become extremely hot to the touch, which could result in a child being burnt. Children are able to leave the premises unsupervised because gates that have bolts, which are inaccessible to children, are left unlocked and the fire exit in the school kitchen where children can enter unnoticed, because staff are not always vigilant in their supervision of children is also not locked. Electrical sockets are unprotected and children's belongings are strewn upon the floor which then become a trip factor. Although there are procedures in place for risk assessments to be taken on a daily basis, these are not completed and therefore these hazards go unnoticed and children's safety is put at risk.

Children enter premises that are not ideally suited for their purpose and space is not used appropriately to promote children's development. Tables and chairs are not used to create a welcoming environment and there is no designated area for children to rest safely without disturbance. Children are able to use the toilet facilities at the school where very young children are often accompanied by older peers and not by a member of staff. This results in some children being put in a very vulnerable position allowing them to leave the premises unsupervised. The very limited range of activities does not provide a stimulating environment or meets the varying needs of all the children attending. Therefore, children's development and welfare is impeded.

Children can be protected if abuse or neglect is suspected because staff have undertaken training in safeguarding children and have procedures to follow should concerns arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is inadequate.

Children's welfare and individual needs are not promoted effectively because staff do not plan a range of activities and play opportunities or provide resources which are appropriate to the ages and interests of the children attending. There is a very limited choice of activities presented and children are unable to make decisions about their play and learning because resources are not easily accessible, as they are stored in the outside shed. Children have very little input into what they would like to take part in and therefore are often only occupied in running around outside or eating.

Children who attend the setting are a lively group of children and appear to have good relationships with each other and the staff team. They do enjoy themselves at the craft table, making items to take home and some children are able to sustain interest when participating in self-chosen or adult-led activities. However, children are given insufficient challenge which sometimes results in them sitting doing nothing or walking aimlessly around the room, stating that they are bored.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children do not have access to the full range of resources and activities that are available and therefore do not learn about equality through their play. Information gained from parents is minimal and therefore children's individual needs are not always met or catered for. Children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities are welcomed into the setting and the physical environment allows for children or adults in wheelchairs to be accommodated. Furniture and activities can be moved or adapted to allow children with additional needs to participate alongside their peers.

Children behave well and there is very little disruptive behaviours. This is because children know what is expected of them within the boundaries of the school perimeters. Children respond positively to staff most of the time and are willing to help tidy up the room or get themselves ready for meal times.

Parents and carers are grateful to the service that is provided by the setting which allows them to follow their own pursuits. They are informed about the setting through the school newsletters and are given basic information about what to expect from the provider such as routines, policies and how to make a complaint. Parents are requested to inform staff in writing of who is allowed to collect their children from the setting but this is not always adhered to and therefore children are again put at risk. Parents form the management committee and state how pleased they are with the out of school club, particularly in the school holidays, because without the provision they would not be able to continue to work.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The organisation of the setting is ineffective. Space and resources are not used effectively and qualified staff are not deployed appropriately to ensure that the needs of all children attending can be met. Staff are often engaged in one activity to the exclusion of all others. For example, three members of staff sit at the craft table with three children, whilst the rest of the children attending the setting amuse themselves.

A registration system is in place but is not always maintained accurately and therefore children and staff cannot be accounted for and puts children at risk should an emergency occur. Relevant documentation is in place but some policies need amending and procedures are not always followed by staff which has a negative impact on the care children receive. Overall, children's needs are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to conduct a risk assessment of the security of the premises and take any identified action; develop a written risk assessment and procedures for activities such as swimming and coaching sessions, which includes the safety of getting the children to and from the activities and review the recording of accidents to ensure confidentiality.

The provider has made limited improvement. Children's safety is compromised because risk assessments are not conducted on the premises, inside or outside and therefore no action is taken to minimise hazards to children. Children's safety has been improved when on outings because a procedure has been put into place for staff to follow. Although the recording of accidents is now confidential, children's medical needs are not always met as the recordings are not maintained accurately.

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 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 that those responsible for the preparation and handling of food are fully aware of and comply with regulations relating to food safety and hygiene
- maintain an accurate record of accidents
- conduct a risk assessment of the premises both inside and outside to minimise hazards to children and take any identified action
- plan and provide a suitable range of activities and play opportunities for children, which are appropriate for the ages and interests of the children attending based on their individual needs
- deploy staff more effectively to ensure the safety, welfare and development of children at all times
- ensure that an accurate record of attendance is maintained.

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