

Stonehouse After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY272191
Inspection date	17 January 2008
Inspector	Shirley Ann Jackson
Setting Address	Red Lodge, Park Infant School, Elm Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2NP
Telephone number	01453 792152
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Registered person	Stonehouse 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Stonehouse After School Club, operates from premises attached to Park Infant School, which is situated in Stonehouse, a rural town in Gloucestershire. The club use three rooms, a kitchen, toilets - including one with easy access for disabled children and adults - and an office. Children use the fully enclosed hard surface area in front of the building and are also able to make use of the junior school hall, playing fields and playgrounds. The club serves the local community and is managed by a voluntary management committee.

The club provides out of school care for 40 children aged between four and eight years old. There are currently 40 children on roll, aged from four to ten years, who attend for a variety of sessions. The club is open from 07.30 to 09.00 and from 15.15 to 18.00, from Monday to Friday, during school term times. They are also open between 08.30 and 18.00 during some school holidays. The club supports children with special needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

There are six members of staff working with the children, all of whom hold a recognised qualification. All staff hold current first aid and child protection certificates. The club has a quality assurance scheme certificate which was awarded in October 2007.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about positive hygiene procedures as they follow well-established routines. For example, children willingly line up to have soap put on their hands, which they then wash off under running water. They see staff cleaning tables before cooking activities are offered.

Children's health is promoted as all staff working at the club hold a current first aid certificate and a first aid box is easily accessible if required. Clear procedures are in place if children are ill to help to prevent the spread of infection.

Children attending the club before school are offered a healthy and varied breakfast of cereals and toast with a choice of spreads. Those attending the after school club are offered a healthy choice of snack, including fruit. Children and staff sit together during these times, making them a social event. Children are offered a variety of drinks, including squash, apple juice and milkshakes, and drinking water is readily available during sessions. Staff offer weekly cooking activities to the children when they have the opportunity to try new and different ingredients, such as, olives.

Children have regular opportunities to enjoy fresh air, exercise and large physical play. They have access to a small hard standing area where they can play football. The club can use the junior school's outside play areas, if staffing allows. Indoors, children have the opportunity to take part in dance activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in premises which are clean, bright and well maintained. Rooms used are shared with the children's centre, so displays of children's work and photographs are limited. Premises are secured when all of the children are indoors, this helps to prevent unauthorised entry, keeping children safe. Children learn to keep themselves safe, for example, staff talk to them about the correct way to use knives during cooking activities. They are encouraged to tidy away toys when they have finished with them. However, when walking from the school to the club, the infant school car park gates are not closed. This poses a risk to children's safety as they walk across the car park to access the club.

Children are offered a good range of toys and resources to play with. These are good quality and they are well maintained by staff to ensure they are safe for the children to use. Many resources are easily accessible to the children through walk-in cupboards and bookcases. Staff are in the process of putting together a catalogue of resources to make children's choice easier.

Children's welfare is protected as all staff working at the club hold current child protection certificates. Staff have a sound awareness of the indicators of abuse and neglect. They are aware of the correct procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child in their care. There is a clear policy in place for staff to follow and this is shared with parents via the policy folder. This helps to safeguard children's wellbeing and welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well and quickly and are soon involved in their play. Staff offer a suitable range of activities for the children to take part in. The club has a children's council, which any child attending, can be on. This is used to gather children's ideas for activities for the following term. This gives children a sense of belonging, values their opinions and gives staff the opportunity to follow children's interests and ideas.

Children's creativity is encouraged as they take part in a range of art and craft and building activities. Recently this has included making collages of traditional Spanish costumes. Children asked for a 'Lego' building competition and staff offered this. Some children spent some time building models, which were then carefully stored on top of cupboards, before being 'judged' by the play leader, with a set of criteria which children had to consider. Children's imagination is encouraged as children can play with a range of role play resources. They enjoy playing with the dolls and having 'tea parties'.

Staff and children build warm, positive relationships with each other. Staff take an interest in children's home life, asking questions and joking along with the children. Children talk confidently to staff as they play and staff are on hand to develop and extend play as required by the children. A recent 'science corner' encouraged children to take part in activities which helped them to learn about diverse subjects, such as, making a force field and looking at friction.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The club has a suitable range of resources which reflect positive images of the wider community. However, children see few positive images to reflect the wider community or to help them to value others. Children build positive relationships with staff and with each other. Children of all ages play well together, sharing and taking turns, for example, on the computers.

Staff are positive role models for the children with their friendly and calm manner. They treat the children with respect, listening to their ideas and conversations and responding appropriately. Children follow this lead and behaviour at the club is generally good. Staff have consistent expectations of children's behaviour and club 'rules' are displayed on a cupboard, illustrated by the children. Children's self-esteem and confidence are promoted as staff encourage children to do things for themselves, for example, during cooking activities.

Parents are given a useful leaflet when their child first starts at the club. Information is then shared using a notice board, newsletters and informal chats with staff. An annual questionnaire is sent to parents to ensure they are satisfied with the service offered to them and their children. Parents are happy and comfortable to come into the club and talk to staff. This friendly, working partnership benefits the children as they see both parties communicating effectively.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All legally required documentation is in place, well maintained and available for inspection. However, details of visitors are not always recorded. Policies and procedures which reflect the way the setting operates are in place. They are shared with parents as they are readily available in the club.

Staff organise the available space effectively to give children the opportunity to be active or quiet, to play indoors or outdoors. Rooms are used for different activities, depending on what is being offered.

Children are cared for by a staff team who are well qualified, experienced and enthusiastic. They are keen to update and extend their knowledge by attending training whenever possible. Staff work well together and are aware of their roles and responsibilities within the club. They are keen for children to take the lead in their play and follow their interests whenever possible. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the club agreed to; ensure good hygiene practices are in place regarding hand washing and make sure arrangements for administering medicine meet requirements.

Children's health has improved as staff have changed the routine for hand washing. Children are each given a squirt of soap, they wash their hands under running water and dry them using an air dryer. Appropriate paperwork is in place if staff administer medication.

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):

- ensure the infant school car park does not pose a risk to children's safety when they are crossing it
- ensure that children see positive images of the wider community with regard to culture, religion and disability
- ensure that details of visitors are recorded

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