

# The Torch Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY267198
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Anne Legge
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<b>Registered person</b>	The Torch 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Tedburn St Mary Torch Club meets in Tedburn St Mary School, which is situated in the centre of the village. It has been registered since January 2004 to provide out-of-school care for 24 children aged from four to eight years, and children of primary or secondary school age may attend. There are currently 93 children on roll, including 29 aged under eight years. The club includes sessions from 08:00 to 08:45 and from 15:30 to 17:45 on school days.

The club has use of the school hall, library, computer suite and the fully enclosed playground and field, as well as toilet and kitchen facilities. It is managed by a committee of school staff, governors and parents. There are four staff working with the children, including two who have appropriate child care or play work qualifications.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from eating very healthy snacks and meals. At the breakfast club they enjoy a range of cereals, wholemeal toast, fresh fruit and yoghurt. After school, children eat

sandwiches, crackers, fruit bread, fresh fruit and yoghurt. They choose from water, milk or pure fruit juices, and can help themselves to drinks throughout sessions, so that they maintain good fluid levels. Special dietary needs are recorded and met. Children have access to a good range of physical activities. In the spacious hall they dance or play badminton or soft football. Outdoors, they use the school playground for a variety of active sports and games.

Children are well protected from infection. Staff ensure that the premises are clean, routinely checking areas used by the club, before children arrive. Children learn good hygiene routines, as staff constantly remind them to wash their hands before they eat or take part in cooking activities. Their care is consistent, when they are unwell or injured. There are effective systems for recording information about accidents and medication, and for sharing this information with parents. Three staff members have current first aid qualifications.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children use the ample space available in the school hall, library, computer suite and outdoor areas. Their security is usually assured, as outer doors are alarmed and staff are vigilant when anyone enters or leaves the building. However, on some occasions, the alarms are not switched on at the beginning of after-school sessions, so children's security is compromised. All areas used by children and some of their activities are risk assessed regularly and any hazards are addressed. For example, staff use their mainly good understanding of safety issues to protect children when cooking, or when moving around the uneven school site. Daily checks are carried out on the areas used by the club, before children arrive.

Children are adequately protected in emergencies. Evacuation procedures are clearly displayed for adults, as well as in a simplified form for children. However, these procedures are not practised regularly enough to ensure that all those attending are familiar with the routines. Children receive comprehensive protection from abuse or neglect, as staff have undertaken relevant training and have a clear understanding of all safeguarding issues and procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy attending the club and they take part in a good variety of activities, which promote their development. They become very independent in making choices about how to spend their time, and in organising their activities. They have good opportunities to develop their creativity, using an excellent range of resources to make cards or collages and to draw or paint. Children enjoy cooking activities, such as making oat biscuits and decorating them. They design and construct models, working co-operatively and using large and small construction materials. They can choose quiet activities, such as playing board games. Children always have opportunities to be physically active, as badminton and soft football are available in the hall and dance activities are planned regularly. The school playground is used extensively in the summer months, offering a wider range of physical play.

Staff plan an interesting programme of activities over time, using themes, such as 'Films' or 'Halloween'. Children have opportunities to design posters and books, make and watch films or take part in fancy dress or dance evenings. Children remain busily engaged in appropriate tasks throughout sessions and they relate easily to staff, who become actively involved in their games and activities.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy very consistent care, due to the club's good systems for communicating with their parents. Carers receive regular newsletters, outlining current themes and activities. A notice board is used to display relevant information for parents and children, including complaints procedures and club rules. Parents find staff flexible and approachable in meeting the needs of their children. Records are shared appropriately and parents are invited to be involved in the group, by joining the committee. Children behave very well. They understand the club's clear rules and expectations, which staff carefully explain when children first attend. Children co-operate in their play and respond well to the staff's positive and appropriate management of their behaviour.

The club is open to all families and is welcoming to all who attend. Staff aim to meet the individual needs of the children, as they plan activities to suit different age-groups and interests. Most staff also work in the school, so they know children very well and are able to provide consistent care at both ends of the school day. There are no children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities on roll, but staff have relevant experience and are confident that they could meet the additional needs of any child who may attend.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The Torch Club meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The club is well organised, to provide a good range of play opportunities for children. They use spacious facilities within the school and have access to a good variety of resources. The premises are child-friendly, clean and mainly safe. Children are cared for by well qualified and experienced staff, who are committed to regularly attending further training, to extend their skills. They work as an effective team and are well supported by an enthusiastic committee. Children's care is underpinned by all the required documentation, which is appropriately detailed and recently updated. There are effective systems for sharing information with parents.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the club was asked to update policies and procedures and to meet the recommendations of the Fire Officer. Staff also agreed to develop their understanding of equal opportunities issues and to ensure that a qualified staff member is always present. Since the last inspection, policies and procedures have been updated and are now comprehensive in supporting children's care. A fire log is in place, but evacuation procedures are not sufficiently frequent to fully protect children in emergencies. There are now two staff members with appropriate qualifications to lead the club, so the manager's absences are covered appropriately. Staff are now inclusive in their approach to all children and families, and have a clear understanding of equal opportunities issues.

## **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):

- improve children's safety by ensuring that the premises are always secure and that evacuation procedures are practised often enough for all children to know the routine.

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)