

Hounslow Heath After School Care

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 116243

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Inspector Christine Bonnett

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Registered person Hounslow Health After School Care

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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Hounslow Heath After School Care is managed by a voluntary management committee, made up of parents of children at the club. It opened in 1993, and operates from a purpose built club room within Hounslow Heath Infant School, in the London borough of Hounslow. A maximum of 10 children may attend the after school club at any one time. It is open each weekday during term time from 15:30 to 17:45. The club is available for children attending Hounslow Heath Infant and Junior schools only. Children have access to the school playground for outdoor play.

There are currently seven children aged from six to under eight years on roll. Some places are available for children up to 11 years of age. The club supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs three staff, and the manager holds an appropriate early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as the club room is very clean. Children also adopt good self-care habits to look after themselves, as they understand the importance to their health of washing their hands at appropriate times during the session.

Children's health is further promoted as all the staff hold current first aid qualifications, and procedures are in place to manage any accidents that may occur. However, their health could be compromised as written permission is not obtained from parents to seek medical treatment for their children in the event of an emergency.

Children enjoy a nutritious meal each evening that takes account of individual dietary needs. Ample quantities of food are available, and include raw vegetables, fruit, hotdogs, yoghurt and a variety of sandwiches. Juice and water are offered to drink. A social time is created as children sit together around the tables and talk. Children's independence is not fostered at snack time however, as the food is brought out of the kitchen ready prepared by staff and placed on their plates, drinks are also poured out by staff.

Children make good use of the school playground that is available for them for physical exercise after a school day. They enjoy making use of the climbing apparatus and goal posts, as well as being able to generally run around.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The club room is bright and well maintained. It is also well equipped and has the children's art work displayed on the walls to make it welcoming for children and parents. Children's safety is important to staff, and they ensure that there are no potential hazards to harm them. Fire drills are held each term to ensure children understand what is expected of them in the event of an emergency. Effective systems are in place for the safe arrival and departure of children, and also to ensure that they can not leave the premises unobserved.

Children have access to a wide range of play equipment that is suitable for all their ages and provides interest and fun at the end of the day. Imaginative play, books, collage, board games and snooker are among the variety on offer for children to help themselves to. All the furniture and equipment is clean and in good condition.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as staff understand that their wellbeing is paramount, and any concerns they may have in relation to child protection matters must be reported.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed at the after school club. A balance of quiet and physical activities is available to suit the immediate needs of the children after a school day. Activities are planned, but the children also have the freedom of choosing what appeals to them to do, and can help themselves from the very wide variety of resources. Outdoor play is a particular favourite, and

the extensive range of suitable equipment ensures that all children are able to play a game such as tennis, skipping, football, or hockey at the same time.

Children also enjoy being in each other's company and demonstrate this by playing cooperatively together either in a sport or board game. Overall, children spend their time purposefully as they are able to engage in activities that interest them.

Children benefit from the close relationship they have with staff. The interaction is warm and friendly. Staff laugh and have fun with them as well as giving support and encouragement when needed, for example, helping a group of children with the rules of snakes and ladders. Consequently, children are confident to approach them and express their needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from good opportunities to explore cultures different to their own, and learn about wider society. For example, they recently visited a local Gurdwara to find out more about the Sikh faith. Eid, Christmas and Diwali are among other world faith festivals acknowledged at the club.

The club welcomes children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The staff work closely with parents and staff of the school to ensure each child's needs are met. Staff speak all the local community languages, and so are able to support children who have English as an additional language.

Children's behaviour is very good. They contribute towards writing the rules of the club, which staff draw their attention to when there are any difficulties. Staff are good role models and speak to the children with respect; consequently children are generally polite and give respect back.

Children also benefit from the good relationships the staff have with the parents. They are greeted warmly, and all relevant information about the child is exchanged between them. A parents' notice board contains a variety of useful information, including how to make a complaint to Ofsted, if necessary. Parents are canvassed for their views periodically through questionnaires, and news letters are issued regularly to help keep parents well informed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children receive good support in a well organised environment that promotes their wellbeing. They are able to make decisions and choices about what they play with, which fosters confidence and good self esteem. The activities and resources available ensure that each child is able to find something interesting for him or her to do each afternoon.

Children's health and welfare is promoted as policies and procedures are implemented effectively. All required documentation is maintained, however, the children's signing-out sheets lack the required detail.

Children profit from a staff team that works well together. They are motivated and interested in the children, and have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They are also effectively deployed to support the children and supervise them effectively. In addition, children

share good relationships with staff who have been thoroughly vetted for their suitability to work with children. As a result, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the club was required to enhance their organisation by ensuring that the manager holds an appropriate qualification. This has been achieved as the manager has attained a National Vocational Qualification Level 3 in play work.

At the last inspection, the club was also required to improve the standard of cleanliness in the cloakroom. This area is now maintained to a high level of hygiene and cleanliness, and is fully equipped with soap and warm-air hand dryers to prevent the risk of cross-infection between children.

Safety standards were also required to be improved by ensuring that staff increase their awareness of child protection matters. Staff now have a sound understanding of the indicators of child abuse, and the procedures that must be followed when reporting concerns.

A further requirement made at the previous inspection was to actively promote equality of opportunity within the group by becoming familiar with current legislation relating to disability, and by providing resources that reflect positive images of diversity. A policy is now in place to be followed to ensure that the needs of all children are met appropriately by working closely with the school, and ensuring appropriate support is obtained to fully include the child in the life of the club. A suitable range of resources has been purchased to help children respect and understand the beliefs and values of different cultures.

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 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):

- obtain written permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment

- enable children to take part in the preparation and servicing of meals to foster their independence.
- ensure children's surnames are included on the signing-out sheets.

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