

The 3.30 Fun Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	309705
Inspection date	07 March 2008
Inspector	(Kate) Kathryn, Jane Ryder

Setting Address	St John's C. of E. Primary School, School Lane, Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L40 4AE
Telephone number	07773 012 545
E-mail	
Registered person	The 3.30 Fun Club Committee
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?

The 3.30 Fun Club opened in 1997 and is managed by a committee. It operates from a church hall which is situated within the grounds of St John's C of E Primary School. It is located in Burscough, a suburb of Ormskirk. A maximum of 16 children may attend the club at any one time. Children have access to a large outdoor play area.

There are currently 61 children between the ages of three to eight years on roll although children up to 11 years may attend. The setting supports children who have English as a second language. It predominantly offers places to children who are pupils of St John's School and opens term time only from 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.30 to 17.30. The club employs four staff, two of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification. The setting are members of the professional organisation, 4Kids.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about personal care issues through the daily routines. They know, for example, they must wash their hands in preparation for the evening snack and they use the designated sink in the kitchen, overseen by a member of staff. Children have a clear understanding about the importance of hand washing in relation to the prevention of germs and confidently explain they cause upset tummies. All members of staff have attended first aid training and there is an appropriately stocked first aid kit. Staff routinely clean tables and work surfaces with anti-bacterial spray, which reduces the risk of cross infection. There are systems in place to record accidents and medication, which maintain confidentiality.

Children have daily opportunities for physical exercise. They have access to a spacious outdoor area where they enjoy a wide range of activities which help to develop their physical skills.

Children

enjoy ball games, skipping and parachute games and they often participate in team games.

Children's dietary needs are well met as parents are consulted about their individual requirements. They enjoy choosing a topping for their toast and have fresh fruit and raw vegetables, such as carrot and celery every evening. A choice of fruit juice and milk is provided during snack and at other times children are able to refresh themselves independently from the water fountain. Older children take responsibility for taking snack orders at the start of the session and record it on a wipe clean sheet. Children sit with their house-team for snack, enjoying the social occasion of sitting with their friends, chatting about their interests.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. It provides ample space, enabling them to play and eat in comfort. Children's art work is not displayed, however, staff arrive early and set out a wide variety of play activities which generates a child centred environment. Staff take appropriate steps to minimise risks to children, for example, they escort children from the adjoining school into the setting, external door security is good, regular risk assessments are carried out and children experience regular fire drills, which ensures they know how to safely evacuate the building. However, there is no system to show that staff have submitted to the vetting procedure and this impacts on determining suitability.

Children benefit from a broad range of resources and equipment which reflects their age and interests. Staff set out a wide selection of activities and toys which children are able to make independent selections from and two play mats are left empty so that children can choose the resources to go on them. Children are involved in tidying away play activities and there is adequate storage space for resources. Staff check resources on a regular basis, minimising risks to children.

Children are appropriately safeguarded by staff who have a clear understanding about the procedures for reporting any concerns on. Although there is a written child protection statement, it has been prepared without following the guidance laid out in the government booklet 'What

To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused' and staff are unaware of the guidance publication.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff provide a wide selection of activities appropriate for the ages and interests of the children attending during each session, as well as planned weekly focussed activities. For example, role play, books, construction, small world activities, creative activities and games consoles. In addition, children can freely choose to engage in energetic play, such as ball games, skipping and team games. Activities are set out to look interesting and inviting; as a result, children are busily engaged.

Children are happy and relaxed on arrival. They approach the play activities with enthusiasm, making independent choices from the wide selection of activities and equipment that staff set out. Children spend their time purposefully and enjoy the opportunities for creative activities. They concentrate for long periods of time making cards ready for Easter using themed stickers and write their own messages inside. Children are competitive as they colour Easter bunny pictures with felt tips, hoping to win the prize for the best picture. Children often choose their friends to play games with and they use their imaginations well as they engage in role play, pretending to take food orders in the café and plate the food up.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff plan activities to help children gain an awareness of the diversity of the wider world. They explore culture as they celebrate different festivals, such as Christmas, Easter and Chinese New Year and enjoy a range of related creative activities and food tasting. Staff help children who have English as a second language settle well into the club by displaying key words in their home language on doors and the bathroom. Children's self-esteem is fostered as they are made to feel special when it is their birthday, as everyone sings happy birthday and they receive a personalised card.

Children are very well behaved, they learn to act responsibly as they play cooperatively and take turns waiting for the games console; older children help less mature children master the controls so that they can play the games. Staff acknowledge good behaviour or individual achievements through praise and the use of reward systems, such as team points and weekly prizes are awarded to all members of the winning team. These methods encourage positive behaviour.

Staff encourage positive relationships with parents through a number of ways. They record children's individual information, have informal conversations and use questionnaires to seek parent and children's views. Staff value parents input and at the next management committee meeting the issue of extending the opening hours will be decided upon as a direct result of comments raised on the last questionnaires. Parents provide positive feedback during the inspection and comment on the range of interesting activities offered to the children, the healthy snacks provided and good levels of communication between staff and parents. There is a clear complaints procedure, including a system for the recording of any complaints in the future, however, the regulators address and telephone number is omitted from the procedure.

This prevents parents from being fully informed about who to approach if they wish to pass their concerns on.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from an environment which is reasonably welcoming and suitably organised to promote independence. Practitioners organise their time well, for example, they start putting out activities before children arrive in the evening. Staff are actively involved in children's play and activities, they sit with them at the tables, supporting and enhancing their play. Staffing ratio's are appropriately met and any shortfall is covered by adults working in the school or vetted committee members. There are sufficient numbers of qualified staff and the manager is committed to attending additional training, such as staff recruitment and retention, inclusive play and parachute games in order to continue developing her childcare skills. There is a clear induction procedure and the manager works through an induction check-list to ensure new staff become familiar with the settings policies and procedures.

In the main, all required documentation is available. Generally the settings policies and procedures work in practice to ensure there are positive outcomes for children. They have been reviewed since the last inspection but two recommendations have been raised as part of this inspection in relation to safeguarding children and the complaints procedure. The registration system clearly shows children present and parents record departure times.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection two actions were raised in relation to the vetting of adults and documentation. Children's welfare is now protected as all adults associated with the setting have undertaken the vetting procedure. Policies and procedures have been reviewed, although further recommendations have been raised as an outcome of this inspection related to the complaints and safeguarding children's policies. Parental written permission for staff to seek emergency medical treatment is now obtained and ensures appropriate action can be taken in the event of an emergency. Staff describe an appropriate system for recording accidents which ensures confidentiality is maintained.

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):

- provide evidence of staff undertaking the vetting procedure by having a clear validation system
- obtain a copy of current national guidance and make sure the written child protection statement is based on its procedures
- make sure the written complaints procedure includes the address and telephone number of the regulator.

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