

Poppleton Road Out Of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	321483
Inspection date	25 October 2007
Inspector	Elizabeth Patricia Edmond
Setting Address	The Annexe, Poppleton Road Primary School, Poppleton Road, York, North Yorkshire, YO26 4UP
Telephone number	01904 340999
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Registered person	Poppleton Road Out Of 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Poppleton Road Out of School Club opened in 1997. It operates from an annexe building at Poppleton Road Primary School which is situated near to York city centre. The group is open to all children attending the school during term-time; during the school holidays children from the surrounding areas may also attend depending on the availability of places. There is one large room for activities and the kitchen and toilet facilities are located within the building. The group has access to the school playground and playing field for outdoor play.

The club operates a breakfast session from 07.45 to 09.00 and an after-school session from 15.15 to 18.00, Monday to Friday during school term times. The holiday club runs from 08.00 to 18.00 Monday to Friday during school holidays. Children attending a full day session usually bring a packed lunch although arrangements can be made for the children to be provided with a snack.

There are currently 84 children on roll aged between four and a half and 14 years, who attend for a variety of sessions. The group supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. The group is run by a voluntary committee. There are normally four staff members on duty at all sessions. The majority of staff have appropriate qualifications and experience.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm clean environment where they generally learn to enjoy a healthy lifestyle. For example, they develop a positive approach to physical play in the outdoors. They have free access to the school's outdoor areas and often choose to play football or basketball of their own accord. The planned obstacle courses or games sessions further promote the children's good health. Also, younger children often take their role play game outside as their storyline develops. This means that they too get a good amount of fresh air and exercise as they take the dolls for a walk, or ride the scooters up and down the slope.

Children learn about healthy snacks as part of healthy eating projects and they help themselves to water when they need a drink. However, because parents generally provide the children's lunches the quality of their meals can vary and the staff acknowledge that some of the cheaper snacks that they provide are sometimes less healthy. However, most snacks are healthy and meal times are a pleasant social occasion.

The premises are clean and basically hygienic and the children are confident in managing their own personal hygiene, for example they usually remember to wash their hands before they have their snack. However, there is a toilet seat missing and the children say that the toilet area is sometimes not very nice because occasionally some children do not use the area very sensibly.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Staff have a highly professional approach to managing risk to the children which means that children can play freely and safely without their play opportunities being hindered. For example, staff are confident in arranging outings to the seaside because all risks have been carefully considered and minimised. Children are very aware of the rules for keeping themselves safe on outings and they can play nearby or explore the rock pools safely. Many children say that the weekly outings in the holidays are their favourite thing about coming to the club. On site, children are confident in the rules which keep them safe in the yard; for example, they know where they are allowed to go on the go-kart which promotes the safety of all the children playing outdoors. Door security is very good and children are supervised in the outdoor areas. There is a broad range of equipment which is in good, safe condition. The staff and management continue to develop the premises and address storage problems to increase the children's access to the resources.

Children are exceptionally well protected and their welfare safeguarded. Staff are very well trained in child protection matters and they keep all local and national guidance on hand should they need advice. Close professional relationships with other agencies promote a coordinated approach to safeguarding children. The clear policy in place and the staff's vigilance in following it fully demonstrate the group's commitment to protecting the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and happy in the care of the adults and they are secure in the trusting relationships with them. Staff recognise that younger children, just starting school, can also find starting the club a daunting experience, however, the well established 'buddy system' helps them to settle. Children of all ages play very well together and they enjoy spending their time with friends and siblings. Children make themselves at home and confidently choose freely whether to play at the computers, and they enjoy a game of pool or table football with their friends.

Children happily busy themselves with the art and craft activities and are proud of the warm praise and encouragement they receive for the clay models or their Christmas card designs. This further encourages their interest and motivation. Children also enjoy helping the staff to complete larger pieces of artwork to decorate the playroom. Younger children are confident in their role play and there is an excellent range of dressing up clothes and other props for them to use. Children have great fun with the interesting fabrics and hats and they explain excitedly about the 'click clack' shoes that they like to wear.

Staff plan and provide a broad range of sporting and recreational activities and pastimes.

Although the emphasis is clearly on fun and leisure, children are able to continue their learning experiences in school. Close links with school mean that staff can help children with any homework and they provide an area of the club for this. Children also develop their concentration as they play the range of table top games.

Lack of accessible storage is the biggest barrier to children being able to choose their own activities independently. However, staff rotate resources in line with their plans for what they think the children will enjoy and children are very confident to ask for items which they cannot reach. Plans to improve this are already well underway.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff get to know the children and their families very well. They are well aware of their individual dispositions and needs and they treat each child with equal care and concern. This helps the children to feel truly respected as individuals. The range of resources and activities promotes equality of opportunity; consequently children learn to accept and enjoy the diversity in their immediate community and wider society. Similarly, children with learning difficulties or disabilities are welcomed and sensitively included in all activities. Children are proud of the warm praise and encouragement they receive for their efforts and their behaviour; unwelcome or unkind behaviour is dealt with sensitively. Consequently, children are relaxed, confident and usually very well behaved.

There is clear information for parents in verbal and written form. Clear policy statements explain the group's approach to childcare and newsletters keep parents informed of particular activities, outings or other events. Parental permission is sought and recorded for all important matters such as administration of medication or for outings. All registration information is displayed for parents and the club has a professional approach to dealing with any concerns parents might have. Parents are overwhelmingly very pleased with service. Some parents say that their children would much rather be there than at home and their children agree.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

An informal staff appraisal system and a more structured self-evaluation process combined with the staff's motivation mean that children benefit from a continuously improving childcare service. Staff continue to attend a broad range of short courses to complement their qualifications and they work well with other agencies to develop the premises. Secure recruitment procedures ensure that children are safe in the care of the adults. The staff work well as a team; activity plans and rotas harness staff's individual interests and strengths. This means, for example, that activities relating to gardening or equal opportunities are implemented with enthusiasm and knowledge.

Close links with the school provide a high level of continuity for children and their parents; staff, parents and children see each other in school which further promotes the trusting relationships. All aspects of documentation are clear and staff are vigilant in maintaining records of attendance or accidents. The group have a professional approach to keeping Ofsted informed about changes or significant issues. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection three recommendations were raised to improve aspects of the children's care. The group was asked to ensure that resources were labelled appropriately to promote equal opportunities. Boxes of equipment are now labelled appropriately and no longer suggest that certain equipment could only be accessed by children of a particular gender. A second recommendation asked the staff to ensure the toilet areas are kept clear and free from hazards caused by storage. Although storage continues to be a problem for the group, the children's toilets are now kept clear and safe. For example, cleaning materials are kept on a high shelf in the staff toilet area. The final recommendation suggested that the written complaints procedure contain contact details for Ofsted. The group's complaints policy is now in line with the National Standards and shows up to date contact details for the regulator should parents wish to comment on the quality of care provided.

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):

- work with the children to further improve the toilet area.

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