

# Netherton Park Neighbourhood Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 502330   |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 30 November 2007   |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Frank William Kelly  |
| <b>Setting Address</b>         | Netherton Park Neighbourhood Centre, Chester Avenue, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 1QW |
| <b>Telephone number</b>        | 0151 932 9218  |
| <b>E-mail</b>                  | fun4kidzclubs@hotmail.com  |
| <b>Registered person</b>       | Fun 4 Kidz   |
| <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?

Fun 4 Kidz Out of School Club at Netherton Park Neighbourhood centre has been registered since 2001 and has operated from the current premises since 2007. The club is one of 12 settings operated by an organisation.

Children are cared for within four rooms and the café area of the centre, which is situated in the Netherton area of Liverpool. There is a fully enclosed outside play area. A maximum of 40 children may attend the setting at any one time. The setting provides care for a number of children with additional needs and there are currently 47 children aged from four to 12 years on roll. Children come mainly from the local area. The club operates each weekday during term time from 15.00 to 18.00.

The club employs three members of staff. All of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting holds an 'Aiming High' quality assurance award.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Staff implement the effective policies and procedures in a consistent manner to promote the children's health and reduce the risk of spreading infection. The setting is kept very clean and staff wear suitable protective clothing when preparing or serving food. Accident records and systems for administering medication meet regulatory requirements. Planned activities and adult reminders help children learn and remember the importance of good personal hygiene, such as hand washing before snacks and after visiting the bathroom. Older children demonstrate a clear understanding of meeting their needs. For example, they approach the staff to inform them when the paper towel dispenser is empty. Regular project work is undertaken with the children to help them learn about the importance of good dental hygiene and sun safety.

Children's are kept active both indoors and out as they walk from school to the club on a daily basis. Team and group games including use of the parachute take place in the main hall. Children are very excited about the new facilities that enable them to play more vigorous games such as basket ball and football. At present the outdoor play area is awaiting landscaping and the installation of large fixed climbing apparatus, which will provide children with further challenges for developing their large motor skills, balancing and confidence. More relaxed activities include reading and looking at books, fitting jigsaws and using tools during craft and baking activities.

Children have regular access to fresh drinking water or juice to keep themselves refreshed and hydrated. Snack times are relaxed social occasions and the menus are carefully monitored by the organisations central management team. For example, menus are devised and all food items are checked for their salt, sugar and fat contents. Any occasional treats within the menu, such as chips are chosen for their healthier properties, for example, they do not contain additives and are baked in the oven. Staff have worked hard to encourage the children's preferences for healthier options. This was evident during the inspection as the children showed more pleasure and interest when the fruit was served than when the chips were offered.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in premises that are recent in construction and immaculately presented and well maintained. An informative parental notice board and warm friendly greetings by the staff makes this a pleasant place for children to be and parents to enter. Staff are in the process of organising display boards throughout the setting, thus, encouraging the children's sense of community. Most of the furniture and resources are new and all are in good condition and resourced from reputable retail suppliers. Staff organise furniture and equipment in an efficient manner so that children can move freely and safely throughout.

Children's safety is promoted as staff supervise them very well and access to the premises is controlled in an efficient manner, which helps protect the children from unknown adults. Daily checks throughout the premises are completed and there are clear boundaries and ground rules for when children move around the premises. Children demonstrate a good understanding of the rules and how to help keep themselves safe. Staff enhance this further with gentle reminders about not running inside and organising projects about issues, such as road safety. Fire detection systems and equipment, such as extinguishers and emergency lighting are all in place and exits

clearly marked. The setting practises the emergency evacuation procedure with the children on a regular basis, thus helping children learn about what to do in the event of an emergency.

Children are further safeguarded as staff have a secure understanding of child protection issues. Staff have completed recent updated safeguarding training and all have access to detailed written policies and procedures that are in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. These act as a clear guide as to what they should do should they need to report concerns.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very relaxed and happy at this club. They enter eagerly and move straight to their favourite activity or meeting place. For example, three friends play for over 50 minutes with the small world figures and dinosaurs. They take turns to decide what is happening next in the adventure, and seem oblivious to what else is going on around them and only stop their play when it is time for snack. Others choose to dress up in the role play area as they make cups of tea and care for the 'baby'.

Staff are sensitive to the children and their feelings. For example, one child is apprehensive as this is her first time in the new premises. Staff hold her hand and take her for a walk around the showing her where the bathrooms are and where they will now have snack. Thus, children are relaxed and confident with the adults caring for them. Children enjoy good adult attention. There is lots of animated discussion about what they are doing or wish to do. Staff in return interact well, show interest in what the children have to say and sit with the children engaging them in play, such as building with the three dimensional construction materials. Children have a sense of fun and confidently enter into friendly banter with visitors about their favourite football team and players.

Children enthusiastically participate in creative and other activities made available to them. For instance, they decorate cloth pencil cases and hand puppets using fabric pens, felt letters and shapes. They have many opportunities to express their own thoughts and ideas through drawing and access to paints on an easel. However, the setting has a wide selection of collage and other creative materials which are not as readily available, as they are currently kept in the store cupboard. This means that children are missing spontaneous opportunities to further extend and express their individual creativity.

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

The provision is good.

The information systems in place effectively help staff meet the children's individual needs well, thus children are valued as individuals and are treated with equal concern. Good procedures for supporting children with learning difficulties or disabilities are in place and implanted in practise when children first start at the setting. However, at present the system for updating or reviewing any information held is not being implemented on a regular basis. This means opportunities to extend the children's independence further are being missed.

Play is non gender specific and children freely make choices that interest them. Resources, for example, jigsaws, books, dolls and puppets provide positive images of the diversity within today's society. Staff help children extend their understanding about similarities and differences through project work and activities linked to seasonal and cultural festivals such as Diwali, Christmas and Chinese New Year.

Children are very well behaved at this setting. They clearly understand the ground rules and show respect for both their peers and adults present. They initiate discussion by using excuse me and follow the staffs positive role model by using courteous responses, such as please and thank you. It is very calm in the setting, as children are actively engaged and busy. Staff have successfully supported children to self regulate turn taking, such as when using the interactive electronic games.

Parents are relaxed and chatty when collecting their children, with much information is shared verbally during these times. A detailed information pack is made available at registration and regular printed information is posted on the notice board, which helps to keep parents up to date with current and forthcoming events.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff have organised the new premises to good effect. This means children have lots of space and natural light. The rooms are attractively and thoughtfully organised which enables the children to make personal choices about what they play with, where and when. The children have settled quickly into the new premises and suggest to visitors that they think it is 'great'.

Children are kept safe as the setting follows a secure and robust vetting procedure, which ensures all adults caring for the children are suitable to do so. Managers and staff hold recognised childcare qualifications and enjoy regular opportunities to extend their knowledge through a variety of vocational and professional training courses. This is evident in the way staff use their childcare experience and skills to ensure that the day to day care of the children is effectively implemented. The detailed induction procedures, staff appraisal systems and regular team meetings mean that staff understand their roles and responsibilities, and work well as a team to ensure children are provided with safe and stimulating care.

The setting takes steps to keep Ofsted informed of any changes to circumstances. However, on one occasion had not checked that notification and agreement to the changes in the conditions of registration had been fully agreed. On a day to day basis good documentation, which supports the children's individual and collective care, is well maintained. The management has implemented a system where a coordinator for the out of school club, visits on a regular basis, to monitor if staff are following the policies and procedures correctly.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last care inspection three recommendations were made, which included ensuring that risk assessments be revised; daily check lists updated to include materials that support children's personal hygiene and a system for ensuring that staff follow the policies and procedures in a consistent manner.

Since then the management has taken action to ensure that all three recommendations have been acted upon fully to benefit the safety and welfare of the children. Risk assessments have been completed and an updated daily check list is followed by staff as part of their preparation of the setting before the children arrive. This check list, details safety issues and includes prompts for staff to check the bathrooms so as to ensure children have ample supplies of liquid soap, paper towels and toilet tissue. The management have a more rigorous induction and staff

monitoring system in place, thus, the staff confidently implement policies and procedures providing the children with a more consistent level of care.

### **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 complaint 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):

- consider ways to enable children to have greater access to resources and materials so they can spontaneously explore and express their creativity
- review the frequency with which information is shared and updated for children with learning difficulties or disabilities. Seek support and advice as to additional ways children may be supported to further develop their independence
- ensure that Ofsted has been notified and confirmation received regarding any changes to registration before operating under requested changes.

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)