

# Ashgate Activity Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY291186
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Georgina Walker
<b>Setting Address</b>	Ashgate Croft School, Ashgate Road, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 4BN
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<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Ashgate Activity 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?

Ashgate Activity Club opened in 2004. It operates from the hall in Ashgate Croft School.

There is a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

The out of school club serves children who attend Ashgate Croft School and two other schools in the local area and surrounding villages.

The setting opens five days a week throughout the year, except bank holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year. Sessions are from 15:30 to 18:00 and the holiday club operates from 09:00 to 16:30 during school holidays.

The setting is registered to care for 24 children and there are currently 75 children from four years to 19 years on roll. This includes nine children who are under eight years. The setting is primarily for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and their siblings, and children who speak English as an additional language.

The out of school club employs two full-time and 10 part-time and relief staff who work with the children. Over half of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting

receives support from the local authority and is managed by a committee, who delegate day to day responsibility to the staff.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health and safety is generally promoted. Accident and incident records have limited detail regarding the size and location of the injury. A first aid box is available. Written consent to seek emergency medical advice and treatment is in place to ensure children's medical needs are met if a serious injury occurs. Written consent to administer medication is comprehensive. Staff are suitably trained to administer a wide range of medication and feed children by tap and tubes as necessary. A written policy regarding exclusion is effectively implemented as children who are ill or infectious have not usually attended school.

Children learn about personal hygiene through daily routines and are made aware of why they wash their hands so there are no germs on them. They use wipes after lunch to clean their hands and faces. Children's dietary needs are met. A snack is provided during the sessions after school and mid-morning and afternoon during holidays. Healthy eating is generally promoted by the staff who provide a rotating menu. This includes fruit and carrot sticks as well as pancakes and biscuits. Drinks are readily available and children are offered milk or a range of juices, with staff being very vigilant to ensure none trigger an allergic reaction. At lunchtime, during school holidays, children enjoy the packed lunch their parent or carer provides. Staff are constantly trying to reinforce the need for the contents to include more healthy options.

Physical development is promoted well. 'Energetic games' are included each day on the planning. Children have opportunities to play outside most days. Ball games are included and adapted for children who are less mobile. Children ask if they can go and use the enclosed park area with climbing equipment. This is used during school holidays. Activities in the school hall include dance which is particularly enjoyed by all children. The staff move the children in their wheelchairs in time to the music. Children's use of the wide range of construction toys, large peg puzzles or craft resources help to develop fine manipulation skills.

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

The provision is good.

The children's safety is promoted effectively. The policies regarding the collection of children who attend from three schools are robustly implemented. However, the record keeping of the delivery of children home via the transport and collection service from the setting is cumbersome. This does not give complete detail that children have been handed over to their parents and carers. Staff have produced a policy which relates to the procedures to follow if a child is lost or uncollected. They take positive steps to promote safety and precautions to prevent accidents in the hall and outdoor play areas. An awareness of safety during a fire is promoted. Evacuations are practised. Children are also developing an awareness of personal safety and respond to the visual sign of a red card circle located on a line of chairs which indicates they must not go in certain areas, unless accompanied by an adult.

Children are cared for in warm and welcoming, safe, secure and suitable premises where there is sufficient space indoors to play. Children who are able to independently select activities from the interesting range of toys and equipment presented. Resources are swapped after lunch

during the full-day sessions to stimulate the children and as necessary throughout the morning, afternoon or during the evening after school. A store room adjacent to the hall contains an ever increasing range of interesting and stimulating resources. Children's craft work is displayed each session, with notice boards which inform of the menu and activities, using dual sign language information as well as visual pictures.

The children's well-being is promoted under child protection procedures. Some staff have attended training and all have an understanding of procedures and how to put these into practice. The staff have detail of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Information about the duty to protect children is shared with parents in the policies and parents sign to say they have read the details.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle quickly in the setting and have a friendly relationship with the staff. The children are eager to play with the stimulating range of different activities presented each session. Staff move those less able children around to each area or table to ensure each child has a turn. Carefully planned activities are produced and adapted as children are given opportunities to develop at their own pace. Evaluations of activities are completed for each child to assist with providing parents with detail of what their child has played with. The children are asked what they like to do when staff are planning future activities. Sensory play equipment has recently been increased to ensure all children benefit from their time in the activity club.

Children engage in quieter activities such as story time before snack and lunch. An extensive variety of crafts and messy play activities are always available and children create more than one painting to take home. Great concentration is shown and some spend extended periods on something which stimulates such as completing large floor puzzles. They enjoy the wide range of musical instruments and make loud vocal sounds as they tap, shake and bang the resources. A cd player is used throughout the sessions and children operate it themselves to instigate dance activities.

Staff consistently interact with the children and encourage responses when playing with such toys as the 'farm' or pretend to be served in the 'Ashgate supermarket'. Labels are placed on the tables to show the 'office', 'farm' or 'supermarket' is set up in that area. Role or fantasy play often includes being at the post office or in a café

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are discussed with parents. Record sheets for each child are comprehensive and include space for relevant detail which enables appropriate care to be given. Children are able to play with a range of non-stereotypical resources and any negative issues are addressed successfully. The children have limited access to resources and activities showing positive images of diversity, culture and gender. Children use an extensive range of resources which are specifically designed to stimulate those with disabilities such as large sized peg puzzles and sensory toys.

All children are treated fairly in the setting as inclusion and the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of activities is the focus of the club. Staff encourage children to access all appropriate activities and develop skills. Children are constantly stimulated as staff have an

excellent understanding of potential need and how to adapt activities. Individual medical and care needs are successfully met through discussion with parents and school staff.

There are effective procedures in place to manage a wide range of children's behaviour. Children generally behave well as most respond to the boundaries set by staff. Records are well maintained of any incidents or injuries and shared with parents and carers. Reward charts encourage children to be sociable, helpful and to share with their peers. Consistent positive management helps children feel secure knowing what they can and cannot do. Proactive use of praise and encouragement helps to build development of children's self-esteem. Regular presentation of favourite resources assist staff in their methods of distraction, used to diffuse situations as children relate to the toys or music.

Positive relationships exist with parents and carers who welcome the extremely flexible service the club offers to extend the school day and provide holiday club arrangements. Children are unquestionably settled and happy. The setting works consistently in partnership with parents to fully meet the needs of the children. A two-way diary has been introduced to share relevant information, including what activities children have been engaged in. Parents are provided with a written complaints procedure, displayed in the setting, which contains information regarding the process to be followed and where to contact the regulator. Policies and procedures are contained in a file for parents to view and the certificate of registration is displayed.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are in the care of qualified and experienced staff who are fully supportive to ensure they are happy and exceptionally well-stimulated and cared for in the activity club. The ratios are maintained effectively to a high level and children benefit from the individual attention they receive.

The children's needs are met by the staff who generally maintain their personal records to meet individual needs. Written policies generally assist in promoting the care and learning of the children. The registration system which monitors all persons on site and assists in safeguarding the children is detailed but not collated to show who is on site or in the care of the staff on the transport. A robust policy regarding the collection of children from three schools is consistently implemented to ensure the children's safe arrival at the club.

Good organisation of the play area layout and imaginatively planned, developmentally-appropriate activities ensure children's time in the club is worthwhile. These provide interesting challenges for all children. Consequently, children are very happy in the setting. A clear vision has been developed of how the setting will operate to meet the needs of the children effectively. The committee leave the day to day management to highly motivated staff. Qualification requirements are met and staff also attend training to raise standards and increase knowledge and broaden children's experiences. This ensures the children are consistently being stimulated to learn and enjoy themselves. Overall, children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection the setting was set four recommendations. Staff were to ensure consistent hand washing procedures are followed. They have access to running water in the children's changing facility and this is used after messy play, before and after snacks and lunchtime. There are also wipes available in the hall and children use these independently after

meals. All foods brought into the setting by parents and children are now stored appropriately in the refrigerator in the kitchen.

Area Child Protection Committee procedures were to be kept on site. These have been superseded by the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and the relevant documents have been changed and are onsite in the folder for parents and staff to refer to. The committee were to inform Ofsted of changes regarding who is the manager. This has been done and they are aware any future changes, including new persons on the committee, must be notified to Ofsted as well as any other significant events. Parents can be assured the setting meet regulation requirements and promote the welfare of the children.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There has been one complaint made to Ofsted since the last inspection. Concern was raised with Ofsted that staff are not adequately trained/qualified to care for children with medical needs. We investigated by carrying out an unannounced visit. National Standards investigated were; Standard 1 Suitable person; Standard 2 Organisation and Standard 7 Health.

There was no evidence to suggest a breach of National Standard 1 Suitable person. However, there was evidence of a breach of Standard 2 Organisation and Standard 7 Health. Three actions and one recommendation were made. The setting met the National Standards and remained qualified for registration at the time the investigation was closed.

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.

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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):

- develop the registration system to collate detail of the times of arrival and departure of children and when they are actually handed over to their parent or carer
- increase detail in accident and incident records to assist in safeguarding the children
- continue to increase resources and activities which promote a wider range of positive images of diversity in society, festivals, customs and cultures.

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)