

West Bridgford Out of School Care Ltd

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY266681
Inspection date	20 December 2007
Inspector	Esther Darling
Setting Address	West Bridgford Infant School, George Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG2 7PT
Telephone number	0115 9811168
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Registered person	West Bridgford Out of School Care Ltd
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?

West Bridgford Out of School Care Limited was established in 1995, with the current registration running from 2003. The club provides care within two halls at West Bridgford Infant School. A maximum of 60 children aged three to eight years may attend the setting at any one time. The club is open each day during term time from 15:30 - 17:45. Children have access to a secure playground for outdoor play.

There are currently 46 children on roll. The club supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The club employs four staff, three of whom are qualified and the remaining staff member is studying towards a relevant degree. The club receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are learning about how to promote their own good health. For example, they understand that they are expected to wash their hands properly before eating and after using the toilet.

Staff reinforce this by offering regular reminders so that children make good hygiene part of their daily routine. The facilities are maintained well and kept clean, and staff use appropriate methods to ensure that the tables are clean for snack time. Accidents are dealt with by capable staff who hold first aid certificates. Parents are kept informed via efficient records which include clear descriptive details. There are good systems in place to ensure that children are only administered medication that is prescribed and after gaining written consent from parents.

Children appreciate the variety of food that is offered to them, such as a selection of popcorn, wholemeal bread, cucumber, tuna fish and pears to choose from at tea time. This helps them to understand about the choices that promote their healthy growth and development. They learn to be independent and make their own choices when spreading their own bread. Children independently access water at tea time. Staff are fully aware of children's dietary needs and cater for these appropriately. Children love playing outside whilst at the club, and do so frequently. The staff understand the importance to children of being able to move about freely, whilst enjoying some challenge. Many aspects of their physical development are catered for throughout the session due to planning by the staff and the good facilities available. Balancing, playing football and action games promote children's strength, coordination and fitness.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move around safely and responsibly, benefiting from the good levels of security offered at this facility. The entrance is kept locked at all times, and visitors are required to identify themselves. There are systems in place to ensure that children are released only to persons who are authorised. Staff deploy themselves well and arrange regular fire drill practises so that they and the children understand how to act in the event of an emergency. There are good procedures for outings, such as to the local park, when children wear fluorescent jackets to make them visible. Children are cared for in a warm and spacious environment where provision is made for floor play and table-top activities. Due to limitations of use of facilities, comfort and versatility are somewhat restricted depending upon whether the hall or communal area is being used. Children help to care for their immediate environment by offering to wash up their dishes after tea.

Children benefit from a sound range of toys and equipment that is in good repair and meets their developmental needs. Storage at the setting is poor because it is very limited and overcrowded. The staff compensate for this by bringing much of the play equipment to the school on a daily basis, according to what has been planned. This means that opportunities for children to choose and select their own resources are few, and thus inhibits the initiation of their own ideas.

Children are protected because there is a thorough and clear policy guiding staff on best practice and what to do in the event that they are worried a child is being abused. This is complemented by regular training to enable staff to understand what the current local government safeguarding children procedures are. Staff understand their personal responsibility to ensure that the welfare of the child is paramount and that procedures are followed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children engage in a varied range of experiences which are usually planned by the staff. These include a variety of different games, construction play and creative activities such as chalk drawings on black sugar paper. Children enjoy this type of activity when they all decide to draw a reindeer. Staff offer support and encouragement for all children, especially those who are less confident of their abilities. On special occasions children are encouraged to make requests about what they would like the staff to bring to the club, including favourites such as dolls and equipment to support role play such as potties and rocker chairs. Children play happily in small groups, devise imaginary games or sing together. Children make regular trips to the local park in lighter months, and have fun whilst learning about key roles in society. For example, when a fire engine comes to visit the setting.

The staff have a good understanding of the age group they are working with, and pitch their involvement with the children at the right level. Adult and child interaction is positive because of this and children are content because they are able to form friendship groups. Children develop at their own pace and demonstrate their pleasure in being at the setting. They are confident and approachable, initiating conversations with visitors.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's confidence and self-esteem flourishes because the staff show respect for them, acting as good role models. Their lives are enriched as they are able to value their own and other cultures through the use of a sound range of appropriate resources that positively reflect the wider society. Acknowledging and celebrating festivals, and tasting foods from different countries makes this aspect of learning enjoyable and relevant to the children. Their understanding is consolidated when they listen to accompanying music, watch DVDs and play with dressing up clothes. Systems such as working cooperatively with parents and children, and appropriate training for staff ensures that children with disabilities and/or learning difficulties are included and make good progress. Their needs are assessed and key staff members work with other professionals in order to learn and share information for the benefit of the child. Signs and symbols are presented in a booklet that is used to aid communication with any children who need this.

Children are very well behaved because they are clear about what behaviour is not acceptable and staff reinforce this. A positive slant is put on managing children through the formation of a club booklet that forms a code of conduct for all. This is in word, pictorial and symbol form and aids inclusion. Difficult and sensitive subjects such as bullying are sensitively approached in a proactive form such as role play. This helps children to recognise and learn how to deal with any potential problems. Parents are firstly welcomed to the club through a booklet that is full of useful information about the setting, including the vast majority of policies and procedures that it follows. This means that they know what to expect and do not have to ask first if they need to know something. Parents are greeted warmly and the staff members get to know them well. This open partnership means that children's needs are better served and parents trust the people who care for their children. Opinions are sought in the form of a questionnaire and this helps parents to feel valued.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care, welfare and development is promoted because all of the records and procedures that are required for the safe and efficient management of the setting are maintained accurately. These are reviewed as necessary which means they are current and work well in practice. A regular monthly evaluation of the provision ensures that important aspects are not overlooked. For example, if there is a staff training need, or items in the first aid kit need replacing, this will highlight the matter. This ensures that children's welfare is promoted. Staff are well organised in order to meet the needs of the children, who are well supported because there are more than the required amount of adults to care for them.

Because the routine is heavily influenced by the requirements of the school, activities have to be tidied up some time before the session ends. Children are kept productively occupied in group activities at this time, however there is the possibility that this may not suit all children. Staff are well trained and are each guided by a staff handbook that is comprehensive in detailing their roles. This helps them to feel confident in carrying out their duties efficiently. There are robust systems to ensure that staff are suitable for their positions, including thorough vetting and recruitment procedures. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the setting continue to develop policies, procedures and record keeping to ensure all necessary parental signatures are obtained, including prior consent for medication, all records maintain confidentiality, including behaviour incidents and all procedures are effectively shared with parents. Also that the setting obtains the government booklet 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused – Summary'; ensure the policy contains the required details based on this guidance and develop staff knowledge and understanding of current procedures.

Both these recommendations have been successfully followed and this means that children's continuity of care is assured with regard to communication with parents if medication needs to be administered. Children are better protected because staff have the necessary documentation to hand and therefore a better understanding of the required procedures to follow in order to safeguard children from abuse.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 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

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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):

- ensure that there is adequate storage for equipment in order to provide a more accessible and stimulating environment.

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