



NCH Holiday Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	254472
Inspection date	16 August 2005
Inspector	Lynn Morris
Setting Address	Walsall Resource Centre, Pool Street, Chuckery, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 2EN
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Registered person	NCH Walsall Resource Centre
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Sessional care, Out of School care, Crèche

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?

NCH Holiday Play Scheme opened in 1996 and operates from a room within the Resource Centre. It is situated in Walsall, West Midlands. A maximum of 15 children may attend the setting at any one time. The group is open when required to meet the needs of different groups of children.

There are currently 20 children from 0 to 8 years on roll. Children attend from the Walsall Borough. The group supports children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The group employs four permanent staff and there are a number of voluntary members of staff and agency staff. Including the manager, three of the permanent staff hold appropriate qualifications and one staff member is working towards a qualification. Several voluntary members of staff are also working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health within the setting is supported very well and children benefit from good hygiene practices with regard to hand washing and personal care. Children's independence and self-esteem are encouraged and they receive good support from adults. Children wash their hands before eating food. Children's well-being is supported, staff are trained in first aid and have good documentation about children's medical conditions to ensure that children's needs are fully met. There is easy access to several well stocked first aid boxes in an emergency.

Children have a snack and drinks at each session. They use symbols and pictures to aid their communication to help them choose fruit and drinks. Children's dietary needs are met, by staff reading their personal information provided at each session. Children are talked to and encouraged. They enjoy their snack time, which helps them socialise and they learn to sit in a large group.

Children access a good range of physical play. For example, they use the outside play area at the setting, where they develop physical skills and co-ordination. Each child is supported by an adult and encouraged to try the equipment, often with the adult using the swing or slide with the child. Children develop weak muscles by using the pedals on wheeled toys. Children attend local parks to use the open spaces and to have picnics with staff. They go to specialist facilities to use soft play and sensory equipment. They have visited Hoo Farm and Woodlands, where children can get close to and interact with animals.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in clean and well cared for premises. Children's safety takes priority and good security measures keep children safe from other users of the building. Children's level of understanding and ability is fully considered. They can see signs and symbols on doors and cupboards, which help them to understand which doors they can and cannot open. High handles on all doors and stair gates on exit doors ensure that children can not leave a room unsupervised. Children learn to communicate with staff through good use of symbols. For example, a wall display at child height enables children to point to signs to indicate to staff if they are hurt, unhappy or need help.

Children play in areas or visit facilities where safety issues are continually risk

assessed and addressed. For example, children's outings to farms and parks include a comprehensive risk assessment, which includes a detailed assessment for individual children. Children practise evacuation drills periodically but they would be more beneficial if they took place regularly. Children are protected from risk of harm or abuse by staff's sound knowledge of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy as they play in a well resourced and supported learning environment. They play with toys and equipment and take part in a good range of activities, which are aimed at giving each child the opportunity to develop to their full potential. Children of different abilities experience new activities supported by adults, which extend their learning and develop their senses by touching and feeling the materials they are using. They benefit from a programme of planned activities, which enable children to have a good range of experiences both at the setting and on organised outings. For example, children show delight and excitement when completing an activity associated with their summer theme.

Children make good relationships with their allocated staff member, who supports them throughout the session. Children are praised, hugged and comforted when distressed. Their adults use simple Makaton and hand gestures to communicate with children who are unable to use speech and language. They learn to share and take turns during their play. They enjoy being with familiar adults, who join in their games and interact well at the children's level.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with respect and their individual needs are taken into account. Children attend with different abilities arising from special needs and from different backgrounds. They are encouraged to access a good range of resources, books and toys, which supports their individual needs well and promotes cultural differences. Children can see pictures and posters, which reflect special needs and cultural diversity. Children benefit from training courses attended by staff and their sound knowledge of providing care for children with special needs and disabilities. For example, children's communication difficulties are addressed well in a number of ways to suit individual children.

Children's information obtained from parents ensures that good care is given to the children. Children's progress is communicated daily to parents at the end of the session. Information exchanged keeps parents up to date about activities and events that their children take part in and leaflets are available to signpost parents to additional resources and help.

Children are helped by adults to understand the 'rules' of good behaviour. For example, staff know each child's triggers for tantrums and staff focus on loves,

cuddles and holding children so that they feel secure. Children are given space and a quiet area to let off steam caused by frustration with communication. Children respond positively to their carer.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and welcoming environment and space is used to enable children to experience a good range of different activities. Children benefit from staff who know their needs well and spend time playing with them and talking to them. They are cared for by an adequately qualified staff team but some voluntary members of staff have not fully completed the required process for staff checks with Ofsted. Children's welfare is generally supported through staff's implementation of satisfactory policies and procedures. However, procedural documentation for the setting is embedded within the Centre's policy and procedure documents. It is not easy for staff to find the relevant information quickly.

All required documentation about children is in place and is used effectively. Overall the setting meets the needs of the children cared for.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection staff were asked to devise written child protection procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a staff member or volunteer. Staff use the NCH policy, which is called a Whistle Blowing policy and contains procedures for staff to follow if allegations against people working at the setting are made. This contributes to children staying safe.

Staff were also asked to ensure all entries in the accident book are signed by parents and to update the complaints procedure to inform parents that complaints can be addressed to Ofsted. Accident records are signed by parents and the complaints procedure refers to Ofsted and contains their contact number. This contributes to the organisation of the setting.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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.
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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):

- make sure that all staff, including voluntary members of staff, have been vetted using the Ofsted checking processes
- ensure that policy and procedure documents required by registered settings are readily available at all times.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk