

Four Oaks School Before and After Care Scheme (FOSBACS)

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 229112 |
| Inspection date | 07 November 2007 |
| Inspector | Kashma Patel |
| Setting Address | Four Oaks Primary School, Edge Hill Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B74 4PA |
| Telephone number | 0121 675 4040 |
| E-mail | |
| Registered person | Four Oaks Schools Before and After Care Scheme |
| 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Four Oaks School Before and After Care Scheme opened in 1993. The group operates in self-contained premises on the school campus. The group have access to the main school hall, a classroom and kitchen facilities. There is access to an outside play area. The group provides places for children who attend Four Oaks Infant and Junior School.

There are currently 120 children from four to 11 years on roll.

The group opens five days a week during school term time only. Sessions are from 07.30hrs until 09.00hrs and 15.20hrs until 18.00hrs. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

There are 12 staff who work with the children, of whom, five hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted through effective procedures which are in place to minimise the possible spread of infections. For example, staff use an anti-bacterial spray when they clean tables and children are provided with soap and paper towels for hand washing routines. Procedures are in place to ensure children are cared for appropriately if they are taken ill or have an accident and the recording procedures are effective. Sufficient staff have a current first aid certificate and are also trained to use the epi-pen. Consequently, children are protected from medical emergencies.

Staff find out about children's needs by talking to parents and recording details of specific requirements or allergies. Children are provided with snacks of biscuit, cakes and occasionally fruit, which does not promote a healthy lifestyle. They are also given a drink on arrival, however, they are unable to independently access drinks and have to ask staff if they become thirsty throughout the session.

Children have access to fresh air and exercise which encourages a positive attitude towards being healthy. They enjoy physical activity both in the school hall and in the playground. They develop their large muscle skills as they play with bean bags, hoops and skipping ropes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and safe environment. Staff have an appropriate understanding of safety issues and ensure that the premises are kept secure at all times. Space indoors is organised to support a variety of activities and to allow children plenty of room to play. Access into the building is closely monitored and all children are escorted to the club by staff to ensure their safe arrival.

Children have access to a suitable range of toys and resources which include board games, construction and role play equipment. However, they do not have access to resources which reflect equality of opportunity. Therefore, children do not learn about the wider world. Risks to children from broken or unsafe toys, furniture or equipment are minimised as the staff carry out suitable visual checks on all equipment used.

Staff have a basic understanding of child protection issues including possible signs of abuse and neglect. However, they lack knowledge about what steps will be taken if an allegation is made against a member of staff. A child protection policy is in place, but it has not been updated to reflect the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Consequently, children's safety is potentially compromised.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident, independent and develop their self-esteem as they explain the routines and what is expected of them. They take part in a wide range of activities which include arts and crafts, board games, role play and physical activities. Children enjoy chatting to their friends and some take the opportunity to do their homework.

Staff plan an appropriate range of play opportunities, however, children are able to ask for toys and games from the toy cupboard. Children develop their imagination as they play with the Lego and small world toys such as the dolls house. They enjoy physical activities in the school hall which ensures children have regular exercise. Staff interact well with the children, they join in with activities such as completing puzzles with the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children form appropriate relationships with each other and staff. They learn to play co-operatively and have respect for each other. Children learn about different cultures through discussions with staff. A child talked in detail how she was going to celebrate the Diwali festival. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language

Children are well behaved and respond to appropriate behaviour management strategies, such as rewards for positive behaviour. They are encouraged to share and take turns with games and resources which enables them to consider the needs of others.

Children benefit from staff liaising regularly with parents to ensure children's individual needs are adequately met. Parents are informed through the setting's complaints procedure about how to express any concerns they may have, however, this information has not been updated to reflect new regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the setting. They show independence as they make choices of where and what they want to play with. Space and resources are adequately organised, which enables children to take part in an appropriate range of activities which are suitable for their age. Sufficient staff are suitably qualified and effective employment and vetting procedures ensure that children are well protected.

All significant information is recorded, which demonstrates to parents that children receive appropriate care. Documentation, such as children's records are in place, however, some policies have not been updated to reflect changes in regulations. All children's records are stored securely, in order to maintain confidentiality.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting agreed to make sure the daily registration system was accurate and included the time of arrival and departure of staff and children. Also to ensure confidentiality is maintained when completing the accident and medication records. Children's welfare is

promoted because detailed accurate times of their attendance is retained. Procedures for accident and medication records also ensure confidentiality.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- further promote children's health by ensuring they are provided with healthy snacks and they have independent access to water at all times
- ensure children have access to toys and equipment which promote equality of opportunity
- improve staff's knowledge of procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against members of staff and update policy to reflect the Local Safeguarding Children's Board
- review and update policies and procedures to reflect changes in the National Standards.

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