

Wick Out of School Club and Holiday Play Scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY248600

Inspection date12 December 2007InspectorSusan Esther Harvey

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Registered person Wick Out of School Club and Holiday Play 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Wick Out of School Club and Holiday Play scheme first opened in 2002. It is a community group which is managed by a parent committee and is located within Wick Primary School in the study room. A maximum of 24 children may attend at any one time. The club is open during term time from 15.15 to 17.45 Monday to Thursday, and during the school holidays. The days and times for individual holidays should be checked with the school. Children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor area.

There are currently 40 children aged from five to eight years on roll. Children come from the local area and attend the school. The club supports children with learning difficulties and children who speak English as an additional language.

The out of school club employs seven members of staff, four of whom hold a relevant child care qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is supported by staff members who have an appropriate understanding of hygiene practices within the setting. Children wash their hands before snack time and staff ensure tables are clean and prepared ready for children to eat their food. Children enjoy snacks of fruit and vegetables, with a treat to follow in the form of a chocolate biscuit. As a result, children are learning to make sensible healthy eating choices. Children enjoy physical exercise and are given many opportunities to increase their balance as they race around the playground on scooters, or use climbing apparatus, and play football.

A first aid qualified member of staff is on duty each day. All accident records are appropriately maintained and remain confidential. Written parental permission is provided to seek emergency medical treatment or advice. As a result, appropriate action will be taken in the event of accident. However, staff knowledge of notifiable infectious diseases is limited in order to report effectively to Ofsted.

Documents relating to accidents are correctly recorded and remain confidential, and a sick children's policy reminds parents about the exclusion times for children from the group if they are ill. As a result, children are protected from the spread of infection.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in colourful surroundings where their work is displayed as a means of recognising their achievements. Staff collect children from the classrooms at the beginning of the session and make them welcome. On arrival in the setting children have access to a range of toys and resources set out ready for them to use. Children are aware of what other resources are available to them and are confident to ask staff members' for toys or games. A large settee gives children the chance to sit in comfort with friends while watching a video.

Children benefit from good safety measures and staff members' attention to their safety. A high measure of supervision takes place for children as they play out of doors. They are familiar with their surroundings and the area is secure. A security bell is used to attract staff members' attention to parents collecting their children. As a result, children are protected from unexpected visitors to the setting. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they take part in monthly emergency evacuation drills and enthusiastically clear away toys after use.

Staff members are aware of their personal responsibility to safeguard children. There are well documented procedures in place for use in the event of a concern about a child. Parents are made aware of staff members' duty to protect children from harm through policies and procedures given to them when registering their children in the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the calm and friendly atmosphere created by staff in the club. Children are confident and happy while attending the club, they play together well and know each other by name. Children take pride in what each other does. For example, some children take part in

the school play which is the centre of conversation around the snack table as to how well individuals have done. As a result, children are becoming respectful of each other's achievements. There are a good range of activities from which children can choose to play. These are set out ready by staff for them on arrival. Children have the chance to write out a 'wish list' with toys of their choice. However, further opportunities for children to be involved with the planning of activities in order to make independent decisions about their play, is not always carried through in practice.

Children enjoy being creative. They enthusiastically make Christmas cards for relatives and friends, and share their time fairly when using the play stations for games. Children enjoy dressing up from the good range of clothes in order to take part in imaginative play. Children enthusiastically play table football in pairs or relax together watching a video in comfort. Overall, children are involved, interested and enjoy their time together in the club following a busy day at school.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are highly valued as individuals by the staff and have a sense of belonging in the setting. They are happy and secure. Children are well behaved and included in all activities in the club. Children understand right from wrong and are influenced by the general philosophy of the school, which is to have respect for each other and their feelings. Children benefit greatly from staff members' who are good role models.

Children gain from the welcome families receive where information is shared with parents verbally at the end of the session. There is also a comprehensive parent pack and prospectus which details many aspects of the club's policies and procedures. Children remain secure as a result of the partnership between staff and parents. Children develop an understanding of the wider world as through celebrating various festivals such as Chinese New Year and Christmas. Visitors to the club during term time give children the chance to handle insects and bugs. Children attending the holiday club enjoy the opportunity to hear stories from the local librarian. Overall, children are having a range of experiences which enables them to develop their understanding of the world around them.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's wellbeing is supported by staff who are kind and caring and experienced in the care of children. Policies and procedures are well documented and organised. The parent committee meet regularly and up-date all documents annually. The committee ensure there is a robust system in place for checking that people working with children are suitable to do so. An appraisal system ensures that future professional development is identified for individual staff members. Records of staff member's training achievements and qualifications are retained on the premises. Parents are fully aware of the process the committee will take in the event of a complaint.

The space used by the children is well organised, and the time children arrive and depart are accurately recorded in order to maintain their safety. All policies and procedures are firmly in place for the welfare, care and learning of children. Therefore, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides out of school care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to plan a stimulating, balanced range of activities which help children make progress in all areas of their development. There are now written plans of activities such as art and craft, and a selection of visitors who attend with interesting bugs and insects for the children to handle. This has improved children's experiences and opportunities to learn about nature.

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 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):

- enable children to further contribute in making their own decisions and their choices about their learning and play through planning activities
- obtain knowledge of notifiable infectious diseases in order to report effectively to Ofsted

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