

# St. Ebbes After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY282622
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jan Leo
<b>Setting Address</b>	St. Ebbes C of E Primary School, White House Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX1 4NA
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<b>Registered person</b>	Oxford Active Limited
<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 inadequate - enforcement action. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St. Ebbe's After School Club registered in September 2004 and operates from St. Ebbe's Primary School in Oxford. It is one of seven out of school clubs run by Oxford Active and it accepts any child who attends the school. The children use the computer room and shared area indoors and have access to the school grounds for outdoor play.

The group is open each weekday during school terms from 15:00 until 17:30. It is registered for 40 children from three to under eight years and currently has approximately 40 children on roll. Of these, about a quarter are under the age of eight years. The number of children attending varies each day.

There are seven staff working with the children, all on a part time basis. Two hold a relevant qualification to level three.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from fresh air and exercise after school because the staff allow free access to the playground and provide equipment for ball games by request. The children arrive willingly, receive a friendly greeting from staff and quickly settle into conversation with friends to catch up on the day's events. All feel emotionally secure and say they like attending. The children receive a reminder to wash their hands before eating, to remove the dirt and germs of the day, and they spend their time in a clean environment. The staff go some way to promoting healthy eating by, for example providing a selection of fresh fruit for snack and limiting the amount of squash children drink. Whilst staff provide plates for children to eat off, they do not follow good practice regarding food hygiene, neglecting to wear aprons when preparing food and passing sandwiches by hand to each child. In addition, the children eat at cluttered tables while they play, risking food contamination from unclean resources. The setting has access to the school's first aid supplies and, at times, relies on school employees to provide first aid cover while the setting is operating. Accident records are clear but staff do not consistently record one entry on each page in order to preserve confidentiality.

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

The provision is inadequate.

All children attend the school during the day and are therefore very familiar with their environment. They practise fire drills each term to ensure they learn the evacuation process from the club rooms, following the same procedure as the school in order to avoid confusion. The children play with a suitable range of resources that are in good condition. They have ample space both indoors and out, but staff fail to designate clear, hygienic table space for snack time. The resources live on shelves in a large, walk in cupboard and children generally ask staff for favourite items that are not already out. Some however, climb the shelving to reach high storage putting themselves in danger of injury if they fall. The staff instruct children on where they can play and rely on school staff locking some doors to restrict movement. They do not routinely check that doors are locked in order to adjust the level of supervision and protect children from unchecked adults who visit the school. The setting has a supervision policy that states children are always within sight of an adult but, in practice, this does not happen. Staff trust children to play within the specified areas and frequently have no knowledge of where the children are and whether they have adequate supervision. This compromises safe evacuation in an emergency. The staff have a basic understanding of the child protection procedure and keep a flow chart handy as a reminder of the referral process. The policy does not reflect recent changes regarding the Safeguarding Children Board or contain useful contact numbers to help referrals if concerns arise. In addition, the policy does not include a statement of the procedure to follow in the event of allegations against staff, as required by regulation.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children occupy themselves with a range of activities to suit their different interests and abilities. For example, some play football or pool to be active, others hide in corners to chat with friends, while some make glitter pictures or play with cars on the floor enjoying time alone. Younger children watch the over eights from a distance, showing interest in what they do.

Some feel intimidated by the 'bigger boys' and, as a result, feel unable to join in some of the activities. All mix well with children of their own age and staff join in play to extend ideas. Staff do not however, organise games specifically to get older and younger children playing together to widen friendship groups and enable everyone to join in the games they like. The children value the opportunities they have to play with friends after school and some consider attending the club to be a real treat. All are contented and enjoy the freedom to decide what, if anything, they want to do.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The natural exuberance and boisterous behaviour of the over eights results in a loud buzz of activity and younger children sometimes feeling unable to join in. The setting has an equal opportunities policy, which states that staff will encourage girls and boys equally to enjoy the activities on offer. However, in practice the staff do not address this issue to give young girls the same opportunities to play football if they wish. The staff have some experience of children requiring additional support and willingly accept any who wish to attend. They form friendly relationships with the children to promote good behaviour the children generally behave well, complying with staff expectations or pushing boundaries in a light-hearted way. All children are fairly sociable, behaving confidently around adults and children of their own age. The parents and carers value the provision and find staff easy to talk to. They have access to essential information on a notice board and can see the policies on request. Some of the information, the certificate of registration for example, is rather high and difficult to read. The setting has a complaints policy but this does not include information about recent regulatory changes regarding records of complaints. In addition, the provider has no complaints log for parents and carers to see on request and has not recorded all complaints made to Ofsted by parents.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The children have ample space and an appropriate range of activities to keep them occupied. They have free access to outdoor play but do not receive the level of supervision required in order to keep them safe as they move around the site. The children mix well within their own age groups and enjoy attending, but staff do not actively organise activities to break down age barriers and promote wider friendship groups. Staff have recently updated many of the policies but some still do not include all the information required by regulation. The staff work through the policies as part of their induction, but do not become fully familiar with them and, as a result, practice and policy do not always match. The provider constantly finds it difficult to recruit staff who meet the qualification requirements, and consequently has a manager with no qualifications. The provider has no action plan to show how they intend to meet the requirements. Many of the weaknesses have been raised on previous occasions with the provider, but only temporary solutions have been introduced and the failings reoccur.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

There were two recommendations made at the last inspection requiring the provider to improve food hygiene and documentation. Children now have a plate at snack times but staff preparing food still do not wear aprons as a protective barrier to avoid contamination of food. In addition,

there is a risk of germs spreading because the children still have no clean, designated snack table. They eat while they play with resources that have sometimes been on the floor.

The daily attendance record now includes children's arrival and departure times but it is difficult to track where children are because some go off to school clubs part way through the session. The staff are currently looking at ways to improve the register for everyone to understand. In addition, the staff now record all accidents in either the outdoor or indoor accident books. They share the information with the child's parents or carers to enable them to continue treatment at home if necessary.

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

There has been one complaint received since the last inspection relating to National Standards 2: Organisation, 7: Health, 11: Behaviour, and 12: Partnership with parents and carers. On 16/06/2006, concerns were raised that a child was unsupervised and injured during an accident and that staff did not respond appropriately to the accident. It was also alleged that the accident had not been recorded and parents had not been notified.

Ofsted visited the setting on 23/06/2006 and, as a result of that visit, set actions under standard 1 to improve the deployment of staff; standard 6 to obtain public liability insurance; standard 7 to ensure there is always a first aider on site and accident records are signed by parents and carers; standard 11 to standardise behaviour management; and standard 14 to introduce an accident procedure. The provider responded to these actions on 05/07/2006 and Ofsted carried out a further visit on 28/09/2006. As a result of this second visit, three more actions were set. Under Standard 2, the provider was asked to prepare an action plan setting out how staff qualification requirements will be met; under standard 6 the provider was to improve supervision when children move around the building; and under standard 7 the action required the provider to introduce a statement of the procedure to follow in the event of an accident and ensure all staff are aware of this procedure. A response to these actions was received on 31/10/2006 and Ofsted was satisfied that the provider had taken appropriate action in order to meet the National Standards. The provider remained qualified for registration at that time.

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 inadequate - enforcement action. The registered person does not meet 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**

Ofsted is taking **enforcement action** to safeguard the welfare of children.

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)