

Windmill Minors Playclub

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	102769
Inspection date	31 March 2008
Inspector	Nicola Jayne Pascoe

Setting Address	Tolgus Vean, Redruth School, Redruth, Cornwall, TR15 1TA
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Registered person	Janet Driver
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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?

Windmill Minors Play club was registered to provide care in 2000. This privately run play club operates from premises in Tolgus Vean on the Redruth School campus. It has an enclosed outdoor play area and access to school playground and fields. The club takes children from several local schools and surrounding areas.

There are currently 160 children aged from four to eight years on roll, although older children may also attend. Children attend a variety of sessions. The play club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The club opens five days a week all year round. Sessions during term time are from 08:00 until 09:00 and 15:30 until 18:00. Holiday sessions are from 08:00 until 18:00.

During term time there are a maximum of six full time staff working with the children. During holidays a maximum of seven full time staff work with the children. All members of staff have early years or play work qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. The play club receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the well-established health and hygiene routines implemented by staff. They have use of a clean environment, toys, resources and equipment, and are clearly familiar with the importance of regular hand-washing. The comprehensive, written health and hygiene policies include clear procedures which are to be followed when children handle the two pet guinea pigs. As a result, children enjoy feeding, grooming and caring for pets at the club, yet are effectively protected from any potential health risk. Accident records show that children receive appropriate care if sick or injured. Medication is administered in agreement with parents and carers specification. Children enjoy the use of a quiet and comfortable sensory room and lounge area, where they may rest and relax if tired or unwell.

Children receive regular snacks and meals in sufficient quantities for their individual growing needs. The registered person has actively involved the children in developing and improving the menu, in order to introduce more fresh fruit and vegetables, and she has agreed to continue to promote the importance of healthy eating. Children enjoy home-made chocolate birthday cake and fruit at snack time, with fruit squash to drink. At lunch time children choose from a range of options, such as baked potato with cheese or beans, hot dogs, filled baguettes or pasta and the registered person liaises with each child to ensure that their individual preferences and dietary requirements are respected and met. Water is freely available throughout the day. Staff hold basic food hygiene certificates and food is stored, prepared and served hygienically. Children are actively engaged in enjoyable outdoor activities, as they ride bikes, make dens and play group games. They have free access to the outdoors throughout the day and are encouraged to use the outdoors regularly to enjoy fresh air and fun. Children particularly take pleasure from the opportunity to swim in the school pool, where they develop their swimming skills, play games and release boundless amounts of energy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from sole use of the premises which are child-centred, safe and secure. The outer gates and doors are kept locked when children are present to ensure that children cannot leave unsupervised and unauthorised persons cannot enter. Children are supervised appropriately for their age and stage of development and as a result they may work independently and yet receive adult support as and when required. The setting is well organised to provide children with safe and comfortable areas in which to rest and play. They can freely access a wide range of resources and tools, which are stored in accessible and clearly labelled drawers and cupboards. Appropriate procedures are followed to maintain children's safety when participating in outdoor activities, outings and swimming.

There are suitable procedures to ensure that children are collected by authorised persons. Children are safeguarded by a confident and knowledgeable staff team, who demonstrate a good understanding and sound ability to follow local child protection procedures if required. Children benefit from regular opportunities to develop their familiarity of emergency evacuation procedures, as they practise routine fire drills. Children are transported safely by vehicle as they have use of appropriate safety seats and restraints. Designated drivers provide evidence of appropriate insurance and vehicle documentation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from excellent opportunities to engage in a wide range of enjoyable, age appropriate, stimulating and sufficiently challenging activities. Children's preferences are acknowledged and respected by a highly skilled staff team, who know children extremely well, therefore, ensure they are able to engage in pleasurable activities of their choice. For example, those who wish to play outdoors making den's or joining-in with group games are free to choose to do so and receive high levels of adult interaction and support. Other children make wonderful clay models, using a wide range of materials to complete and personalise their finished creation, unique and spectacular results are therefore achieved. A designated craft room is extremely well resourced and provides children with the opportunity to be highly creative, expressive and constructive. Children are enthusiastically and purposefully engaged in imaginative play, in the attractive kitchen role play area, which is thoughtfully situated next to the club kitchen, where the registered person makes snacks and lunches. As a result, the registered person can interact effectively with the children as they 'cook' alongside her. Children using this area have access to real tools and a realistic cooker and sink. They are busy baking their own birthday cake, which they decorate beautifully and painstakingly with colourful play dough and candles, before showing it to adults and peers, so that their achievements can be admired and celebrated.

All areas of the club provide children with a vast range of interesting resources, such as puzzles, games, books, videos and a computer. Children choose to engage in active and social play, demonstrating their well-established and strong friendships with adults and peers alike. As a result, the computer and television, which are freely available, are not used during the inspection. There is a child-size snooker table and table-top football game for children to play on with their friends and adults. Adults not only supervise and support children, but they actively enjoy engaging in activities, conversation, craft and sensory play with children. The family ethos is further promoted through the children's ability to care for two pet guinea pigs, who are groomed, fed and taken out into the designated area in the garden for fresh air and exercise. Children express delight in the fantastic 'sensory room' tucked away in a quiet area of the premises. This room is decorated with optic fibre carpet, pretty decorative lighting, soft pull-out chairs and an extensive range of stimulating, yet relaxing sensory objects in both natural and man-made materials. Children explain that they enjoy nature trails and are looking forward to a trip to 'Paradise Park'. They participate in regular visits to the swimming pool, based in the school next door, where they excitedly play, interact with adults to initiate games and develop their swimming skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and content during their time at the club. They have established strong and trusting relationships with adults and formed good friendships with other children. There is a healthy balance created by the mix of male and female staff, effectively providing children with the benefit of good role models. The club promotes and fosters an ethos of 'family', which is evident as children chatter happily with staff, confident to express their needs, views and ideas. Children and adults are relaxed with one another, there is a healthy, mutual respect and understanding of the need for children to be actively involved in initiating purposeful, enjoyable and worthwhile play. There is evidence to show that children explore their own cultures and beliefs and those of others during planned activities, as there are

attractive displays adorning the walls. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and children with English as an additional language receive good levels of support.

Children demonstrate extremely good standards of behaviour, as they take turns, share and cooperate with one another. They are kind and considerate to their peers and respectful to adults, as they demonstrate good manners, are patient and polite. They benefit from following the good examples set by staff, who listen to children and treat them with respect. Parents and carers are kept well informed through a variety of appropriate and effective methods. There is a comprehensive prospectus, a range of written policies and procedures, a notice board in the entrance foyer and an attractive newsletter, which clearly explains the holiday plan. Good levels of verbal information sharing takes place at the beginning and end of the day, when children arrive and are collected. Confidentiality is respected and maintained.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by a qualified, experienced and knowledgeable staff team. The registered person has implemented effective procedures to ensure adults working with children are checked for suitability. The staff appraisal system is used well to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the setting. The staff team are highly motivated, confident and committed to the care of the children. They work very well together and are supported by a highly involved registered person. There is a good balance maintained between the organisation by staff and the involvement of children, resulting in a harmonious, relaxed atmosphere, where children have influence over what they will do and adults support and facilitate in a friendly and caring manner.

The setting is well organised to provide different rooms for varying types of play. Particular emphasis is placed upon the value and importance of outdoor play, as children are often attending following a long school day, when they have the desire to release energy and enjoy fresh air and free exploration. Holiday sessions provide the additional benefit of swimming sessions and trips to local attractions. The registration system shows that adult/child ratios are maintained at all times and there is evidence that suitable contingency plans are in place. The documentation is very well organised, stored securely and is made readily available for inspection. Overall the setting meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the registered person agreed to conduct a risk assessment on the premises identifying action to be taken to minimise risks, in particular the rear area of the premises used by children.

The registered person has now developed a comprehensive written risk assessment which identifies how all potential risks are minimised and managed. As a result, the premises are kept secure and children play in safety both indoors and out.

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):

- continue to promote children's awareness and understanding of healthy eating.

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