

H.A.N.D.S

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	106966
Inspection date	29 January 2008
Inspector	Nigel Lindsay Smith

Setting Address	Hotwells Primary School, Hope Chapel Hill, Bristol, Avon, BS8 4ND
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Registered person	H.A.N.D.S.
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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

H.A.N.D.S. (Hotwells and Neighbourhood Day Care Scheme) After School and Holiday Play Scheme is managed by a voluntary parent committee. It opened in 1980 and operates from the Lower Hall and Nursery Classroom at Hotwells Primary School, Bristol. A maximum of 26 children may attend the setting at any one time. The After School scheme opens five days a week during school term times from 15.30 to 18.00. The Holiday Play Scheme operates during school holiday periods, half-terms, and in-service days, Monday - Friday, from 08.30 - 18.00. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 60 children from four to 11 years on roll. All the children who attend come from the school. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting employs two members of staff, who hold early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as appropriate documents are available to record children's accidents and medication, and these are shared with parents. Routines are in place to promote children's hygiene, including using clean tables for the preparation of snacks. There is always a member of staff present with a current first aid certificate, which enables action to be taken to protect children in an emergency. Children are safeguarded in the event of a more serious accident as parents give permission for emergency medical treatment, which avoids unnecessary delay. Children's individual health and dietary requirements are met as relevant information is gathered from parents.

Children benefit from healthy snacks after school, including fresh and dried fruit, and fruit juice. They take a packed lunch in the holiday scheme. Children are able to help themselves to water at other times, if required, so that they maintain good hydration.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a spacious hall which is prepared by staff in advance of the sessions, and there are several outdoor areas available to them. There is a satisfactory range of equipment to provide a variety of activities. Children are safeguarded as the gates are locked and parents and visitors use the intercom to gain access. A written risk assessment is in place to support children's safety. However, some systems are not as effective in ensuring children are fully protected. The frequency of fire drills is not sufficient to ensure all children are familiar with evacuation procedures. Staff are aware of the procedures to follow if a child is not collected, but this is not formalised in writing.

The manager has undertaken child protection training and a comprehensive policy is in place, which safeguards children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children initially test their skills together on an electronic dance mat before moving off to the other activities. They settle to a choice of activities which include table football, construction, games and drawing. They are offered a structured activity in each session, which has been prepared by staff. A group of children concentrate on a card-making activity. Children make use of the outside play areas for sports activities. Children play well together and are well-occupied, supported by the adults who show an interest in what they are doing. They can request alternative equipment from the store cupboard.

Children contribute to planning for the holiday scheme, which is organised to provide a full programme of activities such as drama and art workshops with visiting facilitators, an Easter egg hunt, and outings, for example to the zoo.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access some to multi-cultural resources, such as books, and activities relating to cultural festivals such as Diwali, which helps them to learn positively about differences. There are procedures to ensure that children with special needs are included in activities. Children behave well, and there are a set of written rules intended to encourage good social behaviour. There are appropriate strategies in place for managing their behaviour such as a short period of "time out" if necessary, to reflect on their behaviour.

Parents are given a pack of information when children start. They can discuss about their child with staff, particularly at the beginning of the child's time at the club. There are appropriate arrangements if someone else is collecting one of the children as staff are informed of any changes in advance.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The premises and equipment are prepared to give children a choice of activities. Recruitment procedures are in place, but vetting arrangements have not been completed for a member of staff, and no arrangements have been made to ensure that they are not left alone with children. This is a breach of the regulations. There is no action plan in place for the manager to achieve the minimum qualification of Level 3 for the post.

A range of policies and procedures are in place to support children's care, although these do not fully reflect practice within the setting. Records are kept confidentially in a locked cabinet. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to ensure that children are always supervised, limiting access to some outside areas where necessary. This has been achieved; for example the gate to the lower green is closed. The setting was asked to conduct a risk assessment and request permission for emergency medical treatment, which has been achieved. They were also asked to devise a procedure to follow if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff, which has been added to the child protection procedure.

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):

- ensure that fire drills are carried out sufficiently frequently
- further develop the policy regarding uncollected children in writing
- ensure that anyone who has not been vetted is not left alone with children
- develop an action plan for the manager to achieve a level 3 qualification appropriate to the post

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