

Peacock Club Afterschool Care Scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	116250
Inspection date	13 December 2007
Inspector	Sandra Laura Bates
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Registered person	Peacock Club Afterschool 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Peacock After School Club operates from Fairholme School, which is situated in a urban area of Bedfont, West London. Children and staff reflect the diversity of the local area. The club is open from 15:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday during term time only. The setting is registered to care for up to 20 children, aged between 4 years to under 8 years, at any one time. There are currently only 12 children on roll. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club operates from the dining area and the adjacent hall of the school. There are washing and toileting facilities very close to this area. Children also have access to the large outdoor playground accessed directly from the indoor areas. There is a separate office with limited kitchen facilities for sole use of the club. Children are served their tea time meals seated at tables close to the kitchen where the food is prepared.

The club has close links with Hounslow's Primary Community Team, who offer support and training, and they are also a member of Kid's Club Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy plenty of opportunities to play energetically and develop their physical wellbeing both indoors in the spacious hall or in the adjoining outdoor play area. They use facilities that are clean and well maintained. For example, staff check toilets and washing areas every day before the session starts to ensure that they are in suitable condition. Children manage their own personal hygiene needs independently. They tell a staff member if they are going to visit the toilets and they understand the importance of washing their hands before their teatime meal. Most children do this without being reminded and some encourage others to follow this necessary procedure. Sick children are monitored carefully while they rest on large, soft bean bags while their parent is summoned to collect them.

Children are offered a variety of two course snack meals that include healthy options such as tortilla salad wraps, jacket potatoes and yoghurts, as well as some regular children's favourites such as pizzas or sausages and mash. Staff, most of whom have up to date food hygiene training, cook the meals fresh at each session and offer two courses. Second courses generally consist of simple options such as fruit, jellies or yoghurts. Staff are able to cater for any special diets by arrangement and always offer the alternative of a filled sandwich for those children who may not like the planned meal. Children sit together to eat their meals and all tuck in enthusiastically, many asking for, and receiving, second helpings. A cheerful social inter-action is evident at these times. Children freely access drinking water from a fountain throughout the sessions and they are offered additional drinks at meal times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and rest in a safe and secure environment. Staff carry out regular assessments of all the areas used by children to ensure that risks to them are reduced. Staff supervise carefully and are particularly vigilant in ensuring that children are only released into the care of a known adult at the end of the session. There are regular fire drills practiced with the children, and it is evident that they know what to do in the event of an emergency. Children receive appropriate care if they are involved in a minor accident because staff have the training and resources to deal with such incidents effectively. However, the record of these events does not always include complete details of the child to whom it refers.

Children use resources and play equipment that are checked for safety and are rotated daily to maintain interest. The range of resources and play equipment is suitable for the age and stage of the children for whom the setting provides.

Children's welfare is promoted due to staff's sound understanding of child protection issues. They know the steps to take if they have concerns about a child. However, the policy that underpins this aspect of care does not include a procedure to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, in particular the need to advise the regulating authority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting. They spend their time playing actively both independently or in shared games. They have access to quiet activities at the tables such as play dough, puzzles and hand held computer games, and there are always paper and pencils available for children to be creative. The equipment and resources in the spacious hall allow children to develop their imagination as they make 'camps' and 'dens' using a variety of materials. They dress up and enact role play situations.

Children play outside with balls, and kites that they have made from scraps of material. Staff join in with the children and between them they invent a game of catching children under a silk sheet as they run through. All enjoy the fun and persist for some time at this activity. Children also have opportunities to complete home work in a quiet area if they wish to.

Children say that they have different things to do every day and that they like coming to the setting and are never bored. This is supported by staff's planning sheets that indicate that the resources and activities are rotated and varied regularly.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children receive good quality care that is relevant to their age, stage of development and their individual needs. Staff know the children very well and ensure that they are involved in worthwhile and interesting activities at their own level. Children use a range of resources that reflect the socially diverse community in which they live, and which help them to develop an awareness of the needs of people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Children with such specific needs are well supported. Staff work very hard to ensure that they are fully involved in the activities of the setting, and give them small responsibilities, such as helping another child to settle in, to help build their self esteem.

Children generally behave very well. A children's council, which meets regularly, helps to devise and agree the ground rules. More established children help to explain these to newer children. Children have a good awareness of the rules and routines of the sessions and put these into practice. Staff manage any minor disagreements in a calm and equitable way. They explain why the behaviour is unacceptable and the consequences for others. Staff recognise when children behave well or are helpful to others and reward such behaviour with praise.

Parents have detailed individual initial information about the setting and their attention is drawn to the full range of policies and procedures that are always readily available for them at the setting. Children's individual record forms carry sufficient personal information to enable staff to provide appropriate care and to easily contact parents or carers if a problem arises. Staff maintain a day book into which any changing information is recorded so that they are able to make special arrangements that may affect the service offered for any child.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by the required ratio of suitable and appropriately qualified staff who are clear about their roles. The versatile space is well organised so that children can participate in a range of worthwhile activities.

A range of policies and procedures underpins the service although some of these lack current details in some minor respects, such as the contact details, within the complaints procedure, for the regulating authority. All the regulatory documentation is in place and effectively maintained.

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 the child protection policy included a procedure to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, and to improve staff's understanding of child protection issues. This recommendation has been addressed in part. Staff are clear about their role and responsibility in this respect, but the procedures do not include the requirement to advise Ofsted of significant incidents such as allegations relating to members of staff. Therefore this element of the recommendation has been repeated.

Also, the setting were asked to include resources that reflect positive images of people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in the range of materials that promote equality of opportunity. This has been addressed adequately, such images are reflected in a variety of resources such as puzzles, play figures and books.

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):

- ensure that the record of accidents includes the full name of the person to whom each entry refers
- ensure that the child protection policy includes a procedure to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff
- ensure that the complaints procedure includes up to date contact details for 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