

Harwell After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	134506
Inspection date	12 December 2007
Inspector	Susan Victoria May
Setting Address	C/o Harwell School, The Styles, Harwell, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0LH
Telephone number	07854 738578
E-mail	asc.2563@harwell.oxon.sch.uk
Registered person	Harwell After School Club
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?

Harwell After School Club registered in 1998 and is managed by a voluntary committee of parents. The club operates from the community room in Harwell Primary School. The children have access to outdoor play facilities. A maximum of 18 children under eight years may attend the club at any one time. There are currently 22 children on roll. The Club is open from Monday to Thursday during school term times. Sessions are from 15.15 to 17.45 hours. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The club employs four staff who hold recognised childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Procedures are in place for children to play in areas that are clean and bright. For instance, the community room, where the club is held, is vacuumed and toilet facilities are cleaned before the children have access. Staff take steps to maintain appropriate levels of hygiene throughout the session. Children are encouraged to be independent in the way they access toilet facilities

and are aware of routines, such as washing their hands before tea and after using the bathroom. Staff protect children's health through appropriate information from parents, for example, noting if children have allergies. All the required documentation is in place for recording and sharing information with parents about accidents and for the administration of medication if necessary. All staff have current first aid training to ensure children receive appropriate care for minor injuries.

Children begin to recognise their bodily needs as staff offer the children choices. For example, children have opportunities for supervised play outdoors in the school play ground; or they can choose to rest after an active school day and play games, draw, look at books or play with construction toys. Children's physical development is promoted as children handle a variety of resources indoors and practice their skills outdoors; as they run, kick balls and move around the playground confidently.

Parents provide information about the children's dietary requirements and preferences and these are recorded prior to the children attending the club. Children are provided with a light tea that consists of a sandwich, biscuit and a selection of fruit. Children may choose from a choice of fillings and they are encouraged to make the sandwiches themselves. Children have a drink of squash with tea and independent access to water throughout the session. Meal times are pleasant occasions where children sit together and chat socially. This helps promote future eating habits.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe environment. They benefit from the layout of the club, which is housed in an area of the school, and they are able to move freely and safely around the provision. Children play in areas where they are free to choose between indoor and outdoor environments. They sit at child sized table and chairs for tea and to complete activities, and when they wish to relax there are bean bags for their comfort. The children have access to a suitable range of equipment from which to initiate their play and develop their own ideas. Children select their own resources from the shelves and cupboards around the room or they may request any equipment from the large storage cupboard. Toys and resources are checked regularly to ensure they remain safe for children to use. Resources are clean and suitable for the age range of children.

Children are kept safe from harm through appropriate adult supervision and clear safety procedures. Staff conduct daily risk assessments of the area used and the equipment, this ensures hazards are identified and appropriate action taken. Fire safety precautions are in place and children are aware of evacuation procedures during the school day. Children happily inform adults of the procedures they follow and point out a visual fire procedure poster that they follow. Staff keep an accurate register of children and adults on the premises, however, procedures to record visitors are less robust.

Children are protected through the staffs suitable knowledge of how to recognise child protection concerns. Staff are aware children's safety is paramount. While all appropriate contact numbers and a safeguarding children procedure is in place, this is not easily accessible to staff or parents. This is not consistent with effectively safeguarding the children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive confidently at the club; cheerfully greet staff and each other, quickly settle to activities, clearly know the routines and engage in play enthusiastically. Staff do not plan formally but provide opportunities for the children to have input. For example, children are regularly given questionnaires about what they like doing at the club and are asked for suggestions on how they would like it to operate. This helps children feel valued and builds self esteem. Children begin to learn to cooperate and work together, for instance, the children decide as a group what they would like to put on the display board and plan their own 'Christmas street'. Staff provide a selection of collage materials thereby encouraging children to be creative, use their imagination and develop their problem solving skills to achieve the desired display.

Children show skill in interacting with each other and staff and make requests of each other and adults. Children develop increasing independence and show each other care and consideration, play together extremely well and socialise across the age range. For example, children of all ages sit and chat at tea, pass each other the sandwich fillings and demonstrate good manners with little staff intervention. Children are happily occupied during their time at the club and are involved in a broad range of activities, which support their development and learning. For example, they confidently build with construction equipment, express themselves through small world play and access games, puzzles and books. All information about the activities and the children's involvement is shared with parents verbally on a daily basis.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals, their needs met well by the caring staff team. Children enjoy good, warm relationships with the staff and each other. Staff make children welcome to the club by greeting them on arrival. Children are secure in the routines and have opportunities to make suggestions about what activities they wish to do on a daily basis. Staff show an interest in, and respect for, children's opinions. Ground rules devised by the children help children begin to take responsibility for themselves and others in the club. Staff have a sound approach and understanding of all equal opportunities issues. Children have access to positive images and all children are encouraged to participate in all activities.

Children's behaviour is appropriately managed by staff and children show respect for each other and adults. Children are eager to please; for example, they help clear the table after snack and tidy the toys away at the end of the session. Praise and encouragement from the staff builds children's self-esteem. Children develop a sense of self through this positive attitude.

Staff have an informal and relaxed partnership with parents and carers. Staff are available to talk to parents as they collect their children. Most information about the provision is available to parents, and staff ask parents for useful information about their children in order to meet their needs. Regular parental questionnaires help the provision ensure its practices are effective and parental comments and suggestions given consideration. This link between home and the club benefits the children's welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

A suitably qualified and committed staff team provide children with an environment that is sufficiently organised to provide a welcome environment for children's play. Staff make good use of the premises and resources to provide the children in the club with a fun enjoyable experience. Children are protected and cared for by staff who have knowledge and understanding of child development. Children receive appropriate care and attention from staff, contributing to them feeling happy, settled and secure. Staff deployment ensures children are never left unsupervised with persons not vetted. This contributes to children's safety, enjoyment and ability to take an active part in the setting. Most documentation that contributes to children's health, safety and wellbeing is in place.

The staff and committee demonstrate a positive attitude to making improvements and are keen to ensure that the children are cared for appropriately. For example, policy documents and procedures continue to be reviewed to improve the organisation of the club. The club have a good relationship with the school in which they are housed and welcome their support. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provision were asked to ensure that a written statement about special needs which is consistent with current legislation and guidance is available to parents. Review children's information to include religious and cultural needs and review policies, procedures and parental information, and update in accordance with National Standards.

To achieve this the provision are reviewing policies and procedures and most are available to parents in the information they receive about the provision. This includes a written statement about special needs. To ensure children's information includes religious and cultural needs parents complete detailed registration forms prior to children attending the club.

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 written statement on safeguarding children that includes the procedure to follow if an allegation is made against a member of staff is easily accessible to staff and parents
- review procedures to ensure visitors to the provision are effectively recorded

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