

Acorn Out of School Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 139451

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Inspector Sally Hall

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Registered person Acorn Out of School Playscheme

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?

Acorn Out of School Playscheme 'Kidz Club' has been established for many years and is located within the Acorn Community Centre in Barton, Torquay. The sports hall, activity room and dining area, is available for children to play. There is also a large sports field.

The club runs during every school holiday, apart from Christmas, and is open Monday to Friday from 08:30 to 17:30, and Monday to Friday term time from 15:00 to 18:00. They are registered to provide care for 30 children under eight years of age. A maximum of 16 children attend the after school club. Older children up to the age of 11 also attend, with a total maximum of 50 children on any one day during the holidays. The numbers of children on roll varies. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities can be supported, as can children with English as an additional language.

The club is managed by the Acorn Centre Management, who employs a manager and four staff to run the club. The staff have relevant childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for appropriately in an emergency as a member of staff is always present who is qualified in first aid and they are able to call on centre staff. Accidents are recorded, however, they are not always countersigned by parents to confirm they have been informed. Children are reminded of the importance to wash their hands, for example, before meals. However, paper towels are not always readily available.

Children have a variety of fruits provided for snacks and are able to access drinking water. Parents provide packed lunches and the staff encourage healthy eating. Children attending the after school club have a snack provided on arrival. Children's allergies are recorded on their registration forms.

Children have plenty of opportunities to be physically active. They have use of the sports hall where they are able to play football and games and have a secure play area outside. Regular outings are planned during the holidays.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have plenty of space in which to play. They are supervised well in all areas used in the centre. They have a good range of toys and resources to use to support their play. Children are safe due to the good procedures in place. For example, regular risk assessments are conducted. Children have outings during the holidays, parental consents are obtained, and risk assessments are carried out prior to each outing. Staff have the use of mobile telephones and radios to be able to keep in contact with each other during outings. Visitors to the setting are recorded and a register of children is completed. However, it does not include the times of their arrival and departure showing exactly who is in the building in the event of an emergency. Children learn about the importance of keeping themselves and each other safe such as not to run in the activity room and not to run with a pool cue.

Children are further protected by the staff's secure knowledge of child protection. They have completed training and are clear of the procedure to follow in the event of any concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and interact well with the staff. They have a variety of activities planned during the holidays. Children who attend the after school club have themes planned such as space. They are able to do their homework and staff will sit and listen to them read. The sessions are organised to meet the needs of the children at the end of the school day. During the holidays, staff plan activities that the children can complete over the course of the week. For example, Halloween pictures to display for the planned party at the end of the week. Older children support the younger children well and their art talents are used to extend the younger children's ideas. Children's work is valued. They are keen to show and talk about what they have painted and receive praise and encouragement from staff. Children concentrate well in their chosen tasks and are able to select games and activities that interest them. They play well in groups and individually. They have access to computers at agreed times and their time is

limited to ensure all children have the opportunity to use them and to encourage them to join in planned crafts and games. Children make up their own games and enjoy role-play. They enjoy making items with construction toys.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are reminded of the importance to share and take turns and respect each other. They actively help to tidy up before lunch and value the toys and resources. Children behave well and listen to instructions. The staff are consistent with reinforcing the club rules. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities can be supported. Staff ensure all children are treated equally and know their likes and dislikes. Children have regular outings planned giving them the opportunity to try new experiences such as horse riding, den making, canoeing, skiing and visits to Cockington. Some outings are for children over the age of eight due to their nature. This is explained carefully to the younger children so they do not feel they are at a disadvantage. Children are confident to approach staff with any concerns and receive a sensitive caring response. For example, a child had concerns about going on a planned trip, a member of staff reassured them and talked about what they would be doing, and that they would have fun.

Parents are welcomed and information is shared. There is a complaints procedure in place should a parent have a concern. The staff seek parents' views with questionnaires.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by staff that are suitable and hold relevant childcare qualifications. The staff have a good rapport with the children. They encourage the children to be confident and ensure their safety whilst ensuring they are happy and have an enjoyable time. They provide a wide range of play opportunities to meet children's interests. The staff know the children well and are clear of their roles and responsibilities. The day is planned during the holidays to include outings. The after school children have themes planned. Policies and procedures are in place to support children's care and are available for staff to refer. Induction procedures are in place for new staff, and clear vetting procedures. However, there are no staff appraisals completed. Children are supervised well at all times. However, children attending over eight years of age on occasions impact on the care and enjoyment of children under eight. Particularly children new to the setting who are not familiar with the routine and boundaries.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, actions were made to provide a complaints procedure, this has been completed and is available for parents. To obtain written permission from parents for administering medication and to keep a record. This has been completed to ensure safe procedures are in place. A further action was made to ensure children have healthy snacks and children's allergies are recorded. Children's allergies are recorded and they have fruit provided,

parents are encouraged to provide healthy packed lunches. These improvements have improved procedures to ensure children's safety and well-being.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints 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 accidents recorded are countersigned by parents.
- ensure children's times of arrival and departures are recorded.
- ensure the care of children over eight does not impact on the care of children under eight years old.
- ensure sufficient paper towels are available.

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