

The Fun Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector Sylvia Dindar

Setting Address Mortlake Hall, Mullins Path, North Worple Way, Mortlake, London, SW14 8EZ

Telephone number 020 8878 8780 mob 07940070604

E-mail

Registered person The Trustees of ASC(R) The Fun 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?

The Fun Club is an after school club and holiday play scheme which has been registered since 1994. It operates within Mortlake Hall. It is registered to care for 40 children aged between four and eight years old. However older children also attend up to the age 11 years old.

It serves families living in the surrounding area, who attend four local schools. There are currently 57 children on roll. The group supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and is able to support those who have English as an additional language. It is open during term time from 15.00 until 18.00 and during school holidays from 08.30 until 18.00.

There are seven part-time staff working with the children. The majority of which have appropriate child care qualifications as well as one member who is currently training. The Fun Club is a voluntary, non profit making organisation, comprising an elected management committee and members as Trustees.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted as they get lots of opportunities to exercise both indoors and in the outside play area. They enjoy a wide range of group games such as football and basketball. They develop their balancing and climbing skills as they use the good quality climbing equipment. Children are able to rest and relax, for example when some children first arrive at the club they sit and read books as a way of unwinding.

When children are ill they are able to find a cosy sofa to rest. Staff are very quick to observe and comfort children. They call their parents and monitor the child until their parent arrives. This quick actions minimises the distress to the child and minimises the risk of any infections being passed on. Children are learning good hygiene routines, however, they share a hand towel which means that there is a risk of cross infection.

Children are learning about healthy eating in a number of ways. For example, they are making up their own healthy recipe book and enjoy a weekly cooking class where they prepare food for their evening meal and then take it home to cook. Water is freely available so children can have a drink at any time, which keeps them hydrated. Tea times are social occasions where children are offered a choice of nutritious food such as sandwiches with different types of fillings and fruit and vegetables. Children choose who they want to sit with and chat to their friends, however, lack of thoughtful planning means that children have to queue for food and are given limited responsibility for the process, so lack real involvement.

Children's dietary needs are fully met as a result of the information that staff gain from their parents. There is also clear and detailed information about children's health needs to make sure that appropriate treatment could be given in the event of an emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

There are robust procedures for the safe collection of children from individual schools. The fire drill is practised regularly to ensure that children can be evacuated quickly and safely in the event of an emergency. Children move around the premises freely and safely. The outside area is enclosed and the door to the club kept locked to ensure that children cannot get out unnoticed and to make sure no-one unauthorised can get in.

Children have free access to a wide range of favourite toys and games, which staff prepare and put out ready for them to commence their play. Games are changed throughout the session to give children variety and keep them well occupied. The premises are light, airy and spacious and provide children with the chance to move from one activity to another.

Children are protected as The Fun Club has a child protection policy in place and this is shared with parents. This ensures those parents are aware of the clubs responsibility to protect and safeguard children and about the systems in place to report any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children really enjoy their time in the out of school club and greatly influence what happens there. They put forward their ideas for activities and staff ensure that they have the resources they need in order to follow them through. Their work is valued and displayed giving children a sense of belonging, raising their self confidence and developing self-esteem. They have the choice of playing indoors or outside. Children enjoy a range of games such as snooker, giant Connects, a range of construction, as well as table top games such as lotto and Cluedo. A role play area is well resourced encouraging the children to use their imagination. A focused drama session is programmed once a week as children enjoy this. Children find the art and craft resources easy to access and so help themselves and develop their creativity. For example, children are making Mother's Day cards and others are designing posters and badges for their gang. Other children relax reading books, a quiet area is available should the children wish to do their homework. Children have fun on computers and are able to interact physically with some of the new computer games. They are very good about sharing and taking turns as there is a fair system to ensure that all children have a turn. Children appear to self monitor this themselves as they know the rules well.

They are happy and relaxed and have formed good relationships with the staff who really support them well. Staff listen carefully to what children say and do and facilitate their play by organising the resources they need for their planned projects. Children are confident to ask for extra resources or help when needed knowing they will get the support they need. They have made friendships with each other despite the fact that they come together from different schools. Older children show care and concern for the younger children and involve them in their activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have a sense of belonging as they are greeted warmly by staff on their return from school. They feel valued and included because they know they have lots of choice about what they do. They are able to bring things in from home such as their own choice of music and share it with others. Staff know the children very well and understand their differing needs. For example, some children need to run around in the fresh air when they arrive whilst others like to sit with books. Older children are particularly good at caring for and involving the younger children in the activities.

Children with disabilities and/or learning disabilities are fully included in the setting. Staff work with the parents to ensure that their individual needs are met. Staff are positive role models and help children understand that they are each unique in their own way and therefore equally valued. Children are involved in activities where they learn about the wider world and celebrate a range of festivals. Resources are rich in positive images of diversity ensuring children have realistic images of the diverse world in which we live.

Children are particularly well behaved and have respect for the staff and each other and have formed good relationships. They are involved in rule making and a list is displayed for all to see. They are excellent at turn taking and monitor time tables for such things as favourite computer activities. They are polite and understand there is a fair system in place so that all children can have a turn.

Parents highly value the homely, relaxed environment and say that they find the staff very approachable. They feel well informed about all aspects of their child's care as they are given a verbal hand over at the end of the session. A settling in procedure is in place to ensure that children have the opportunity to establish relationships with others and familiarise themselves with the new surroundings. This allows time for information to be exchanged allowing staff to have better knowledge of the children in order to provide the care they need. Parents are aware of the complaints policy which is in place and have easy access to the contact number and address of Ofsted as the regulatory body and all records and policies are shared.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit as the club is run by a well established and enthusiastic staff team, the majority of who have a child care qualifications. Robust employment procedures are in place to ensure that all staff are suitable for their post and have been fully vetted. Throughout the setting staff are well deployed as roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and set out in a staff rota. Higher ratios of staff to children are the norm to ensure that ratios are well maintained and as a result children get good quality care and support. The staff are aware of the importance of children having free choice and so involve them in the planning of the activities through a children's council. In this way they are able to capture children's interest and as a result children's play experiences are meaningful and meet their needs. Staff are friendly and very approachable. They communicate very well with each other and ensure that the children are well supervised. They are on hand to support children in their play, to offer ideas and provide the resources they need.

All documentation required by regulation is in place. The group have developed a range of policies and procedures which underpin their good practice. These include equal opportunities and child protection policies. All records are shared with parents. Regular staff meetings take place to discuss ideas on how the staff can best develop children's ideas. This time is also used to identify any training that they need in order to improve their practice. All staff are committed to improving their knowledge and skills in order to provide good quality care for children. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was required to develop additional policies, for example, equal opportunities and child protection. They were asked to develop a special needs statement and to provide parents with Ofsted's details. The group have all policies in place and these are shared with parents so that they understand what underpin the group's good practice, however, they are currently developing the special needs statement although the procedures are clearly in place and provide an inclusive environment for children.

They were also required to ensure that staff were suitably vetted and that the toilet floor was made safe. They are able to evidence that they have robust vetting procedures in place and the toilet flooring has been renewed improving children's safety.

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 children are not at risk of cross infection by sharing the same towel
- further review the organisation of the snack tea time so that children are actively involved

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