

# The Caterpillar Club (Hermitage After School Club)

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	511594
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 November 2007
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<b>Setting Address</b>	Hampstead Norreys Road, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG18 9SA
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<b>Registered person</b>	Caterpillar Club (Hermitage After School Club)
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

The Caterpillar After School Club opened in 2000, it operates from the school hall at Hermitage Primary School, in Hermitage, near Newbury in Berkshire. The setting is open weekdays from 15.30 until 17.45 during school term times.

The club is registered to care for up to 26 children aged from four to eight years old at any one time, currently there are 35 children on roll.

There are four full or part time members of staff working with the children, of these currently one member of staff holds a relevant early years qualification at Level 2 and one other is attending relevant Level 3 training. The setting receives support from the local authority.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about good health and follow suitable hygiene practices at the club. They are offered healthy and nutritious snacks, such as fruit and toast. They can access drinking water.

In their different activities they discuss healthy lifestyles, such as when they are cooking and when eating their snacks together. They have good opportunities for physical activities. The children use the school playground and the challenging climbing equipment most days, unless the weather is bad. They have opportunities for soft ball games inside. Children follow good hygiene routines, they wash their hands before snacks and are reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet.

The required documentation and records that help to promote children's health and wellbeing are in place, such as accident and medication records; children's special dietary requirements are recorded and observed. Children are appropriately cared for if they become unwell or have an accident, however, only the manager has current first aid qualifications so children are more vulnerable when she is not present.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in the school hall, which is spacious, light and welcoming. Staff have risk assessed the setting and have identified and minimised any potential hazards, such as the school's PE equipment and dining table and chairs which are stored in the hall, which the staff prevent children from accessing. When children play outside staff are always present to supervise them. All the necessary fire safety equipment is in place; children practise fire evacuation procedures.

Children have access to a range of interesting, suitable and age appropriate toys and equipment. These are set out each session before the children arrive to make the play space welcoming and attractive. Children freely choose what they wish to play with.

Children are safeguarded because the staff understand their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into place if necessary. The setting has local safeguarding children procedures and contact details, and a procedure to follow is in place if allegations of abuse are made against a member of staff. Parent's are not informed of the safeguarding children policy before they enrol children into the setting.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled at the club and enjoy their time there. They arrive from their classrooms, hang up their coats and bags, order their snacks and quickly choose something to play with. When all the children have arrived they sit together for a snack and enjoy chatting to each other.

Children usually play outside for most sessions and then they choose from all the toys and activities set out. The older boys enjoy the Play Station, but know they can only use it for a limited time and have to wait their turn. Children enjoy painting and craft activities, they sometimes cook. They have access to resources for dressing up and role play and a large selection of books. The staff interact well with the children and are interested in what children do and say. They have fun together playing board games or cards.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed and valued at the club, including any children that may have disabilities and/or learning difficulties. Children understand the routines and rules of the setting; they happily wash up their own cups and plates after snack time. Staff know the children well and try to meet their individual needs. Children learn to value diversity, they recently made an 'Everyone is different' display, showing children from many different backgrounds. They enjoy marking different festivals and special events, such as Halloween, Christmas and Chinese New Year.

Children usually behave appropriately, they have written their own club rules which are displayed; they sometimes remind each other of what is acceptable behaviour. The setting has a suitable behaviour and bullying policy in place, but this is not easily available to parents.

Children benefit from the close working relationship between the staff and parents. They receive regular newsletters and exchange information with staff about the children's time in the club at the end of the session. They can see the setting's policies and procedures on request, but these are not easily accessible. There is a complaints procedure in place that meets with current legislation.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

All staff in the setting have been appropriately vetted and are suitable to have access to children. Some staff have relevant early years training and experience, but there are not enough staff that are appropriately qualified currently working with the children. The setting is suitably organised; good adult/child ratios are maintained ensuring children receive appropriate support and attention. Most of the necessary documentation that ensures children's health, safety and welfare are in place, but some were not available for inspection and others were difficult for the manager to find. Staff, children's and visitors' attendance is suitably recorded, however, the records lack some detail.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the club was set recommendations concerning the complaint's procedure, the record of attendance and the procedures to follow if there are child protection concerns. The after school club has a suitable complaint's procedure in place, although parents cannot easily see it; the times of children's departure is recorded when parents sign their children out, however, other details are now required to make the attendance records completely accurate. The setting has the correct policies and procedures in place to use to help safeguard children if necessary.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since April 2004 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 all the policies and procedures are made easily available to parents and that they are informed of the safeguarding children policy before children are enrolled into the setting
- ensure the record of staff and children's attendance is accurately kept
- develop an action plan that sets out how staff training and qualification requirements will be met
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)