

Orchard Saturday Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY243071 |
| Inspection date | 26 January 2008 |
| Inspector | Janet Butlin |

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| Registered person | Orchard Saturday Club |
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| Type of inspection | Childcare |
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| Type of care | Out of School care |
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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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Orchard Saturday Club provides respite care and play activities for children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Children attending live in the Teignbridge area in Devon. The club runs in Orchard House Family Centre, which belongs to Social Services, and sessions run from 10:00 to 16:00 every Saturday. The group is registered to care for up to 12 children under the age of eight years. There are currently 20 children enrolled between the ages of four and 16 years, three of whom are under the age of eight. Children attend for the sessions which are appropriate for their individual needs. The group has been established for over 10 years and registered to provide care since July 2003. The club is run by a voluntary management committee and a staff of nine support the provision, four of whom hold appropriate qualifications. The group aims to run with a one-to-one staff ratio. There are also a number of young people, some under the age of 17 years, helping on a voluntary basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are kept healthy whilst in the setting as their individual medical needs are attended to with extreme diligence. Staff are qualified in first aid and many have attended specialist training relating to the administering of specific medicines or conducting procedures. Highly detailed documentation ensures that all is recorded appropriately. Children's health is further supported by the setting's diligent attention to hygiene. All surfaces are kept scrupulously clean and children's personal care needs are extremely well met.

Children bring in their own packed lunches and the setting refrigerates these promptly to ensure they remain fresh and wholesome. They follow excellent food hygiene procedures. Children's specific dietary needs are very closely responded to, but they are encouraged to make as many choices as is safe to do so. They enjoy a plentiful supply of fruit and wholemeal toast at snack times and benefit from the group's emphasis to promoting healthy eating. They are kept well hydrated as they are provided with drinks frequently. Children who are unable to indicate that they are thirsty are diligently monitored by staff who ensure they remain well hydrated in appropriate ways.

Children benefit from the health giving properties of fresh air as they go on walks and outings whenever possible. Staff ensure, for example, that they enjoy the fine weather of early spring by taking them into the garden or on a short walk to the nearby park. Children are protected from the harmful effects of the sun by wearing sun cream and hats. The garden also has shady places to play in.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Rigorous, conscientious regard is given to ensuring children are kept safe in the setting. The premises are secure and access is extremely well monitored. An accurate register is kept showing the times of attendance of children and adults. This means there is a reliable record of who is on the premises, for example, in the event of an emergency. Staff conduct risk assessments on every part of the building before children arrive, to ensure, for example, that the garden is safe to use. They also complete a risk assessment before going on even the shortest outing and take all necessary safety equipment with them. Children are confident in the procedure to be followed in the event of having to evacuate the premises. Staff ensure this is practised once a month so that all children are as comfortable and calm as possible if they have to leave the setting in an emergency. These drills are recorded in helpful detail to ensure they are completed swiftly enough and to identify any potential difficulties. This highly conscientious attention to detail is a feature of the setting.

Children play in a light, bright and very welcoming setting where they have ample room to move according to their individual needs. They have places to play active games, enjoy craft or role-play and also to rest, stretch out and generally play in safety. They also enjoy playing in a secure garden. They access an excellent range of toys and playthings from an extensive range, all of which is in extremely good condition. All playthings and equipment are within their reach and are accessed easily and safely. Children's personal care needs are met, when necessary, in a purpose built wet room. This is fitted, for example, with safe, specifically designed lifting equipment and comfortable surfaces where staff can support children easily and safely.

Children's safety is further supported as staff have a secure understanding of child protection procedures. They have helpful, up to date, guidance and a comprehensive policy to refer to in the event of having a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children across the age range enjoy themselves immensely and achieve a great deal from their time in the setting. They arrive happily and greet members of staff and their friends with obvious enthusiasm. They choose from a range of suitable, stimulating activities that the thoughtful, caring staff adapt to meet their individual needs. They initially gravitate toward their favourite activities, such as craft or music, and staff support them very closely as they move onto other games when they have finished. Some children laugh with delight as they sign along to well known songs and staff accompany them which adds to their enjoyment. Children also appreciate the strategies used by staff, for example, when they deliberately get the words of the song wrong. Children laugh and indicate to them that they have made a mistake. Staff know all the children very well and ensure that there are at least three members of staff who children have a close and trusting relationship with. Children benefit from the cosy, family feeling in the setting as they snuggle alongside members of staff and their playmates during their play. Staff communicate constantly with each other regarding children's individual progress, for example, pointing out and noting down when a child does something new or remarkable. Children delight in their activities and make excellent progress according to their individual stages of development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs are met in exemplary fashion. Staff monitor them constantly and are extremely responsive to their observations. Children with complex needs benefit from the detailed records that are kept and the close working relationship that exists between their parents, carers and supporting agencies. Staff discuss specific strategies they are learning, for example, in fostering relationships, to ensure children enjoy their time in the setting. A high regard is given to promoting children's privacy and dignity, for example, ensuring that personal care is undertaken respectfully and appropriately.

Children learn about cultural and social diversity in meaningful ways as the books and toys they play with depict positive images. Children are supported in their individual languages and methods of communication which helps to promote their self esteem.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. Many children greet staff and each other very politely and all benefit from the constant attention and positive reinforcement they receive from staff. Staff's skilful awareness ensures that contentious situations are avoided as they, for example, remove items or distract children very swiftly.

Children are cared for in exact accordance with their parents' wishes. All consents have been obtained for their care and a very good system is in place to keep parents informed of all aspects of their care, both medical and social. A clear record is kept of children's activities and this helps staff to plan for their future enjoyment and progress. There are excellent systems in place to keep parents informed of the way the group operates and of regulatory procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children play in an extremely well organised setting. They are cared for by enthusiastic, sensitive and conscientious staff who clearly enjoy their work with children. Staff are present in the setting, eager to start work and enjoy a pre-session briefing in good time before the children arrive. They ask relevant questions regarding individual children's needs and discuss how to adapt activities. This is reinforced by a meeting at the end of the session so that staff can all maintain an accurate record of children's enjoyment and progress. An excellent ratio is maintained of staff to children. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

All regulatory documentation is in place and is accessible, yet securely stored. Excellent records are kept which evidence that all who work with the children are suitable to do so. Staff are supported in their professional development and the group is keen to learn about forthcoming changes in the regulation of early years care. Children benefit from the time they spend in this group where every child truly matters.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group was required to ensure that Ofsted is promptly informed of all staff changes and details. They are proactive in passing on information regarding changes to the committee and maintain records of staff in accordance with current regulations. They were also required to ensure that the child protection policy outlines the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer. The policy has been updated to include this clause which has made it a more useful document in the event of having a concern. Both issues have been completely addressed and this has improved 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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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