

Yeoford Youngsters

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY245995
Inspection date	23 January 2008
Inspector	Heather Morgan
Setting Address	Yeoford Primary School, Station Road, Yeoford, Crediton, Devon, EX17 5HZ
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Registered person	Yeoford Youngsters
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?

Yeoford Youngsters (Yeo Yo's) After School Club opened in 2002 and is managed by a voluntary committee of parents. The club is based in a mobile classroom in the school playground at Yeoford Community Primary School. Children use the school toilets and there is access to the school kitchen and outside play space.

The club operates from 15:30 until 18:00 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during term times, primarily providing a social facility for the children of the village as well as providing a service to working parents. Children attending are aged from four years to 14 years and a maximum of 20 children aged under eight years can attend at any one time. There are currently 41 children on roll. The club supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

There are two regular members of staff who work with the children, both of whom hold relevant qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to develop healthy eating habits as they enjoy nutritious snacks at the club. For example, they eat fresh fruit and raw vegetables with bread, crackers or toast and a variety of different spreads. They can help themselves to drinks whenever they are thirsty and are able to choose from water, milk or squash. Children often attend birthday parties which are hosted by the after school club. On these occasions their tea is supplemented with a hot or cold buffet and children are encouraged to eat savoury items before they enjoy their sweet treats and birthday cake. Children with special dietary requirements have their needs met very well. Staff keep a clear record of individual requirements and take this into account when preparing snacks, party food and cookery activities.

Children are learning the importance of good hygiene as they are reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. However, before eating they all share one bowl of water, which limits the effectiveness of reducing the risk of cross infection. Children are well cared for in the event of injury or illness. Staff maintain current first aid certificates and have easy access to an appropriately stocked first aid kit. There are clear procedures in place to record injuries and the administration of medication, which are shared with parents to support children's continuity of care.

Children have access to the school grounds where they have space to run around in the fresh air and exercise their large muscles. During winter months, when it gets dark early they play physical games indoors.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and secure at the after school club, which is situated within the village school grounds. Effective systems are in place to ensure that unauthorised persons cannot access the building. Children are collected from school and walked to the club building, where staff follow clear procedures to ensure that all children who are booked for the session arrive safely. Young children are escorted to and from the main school building should they need the toilet during the after school session.

Children have a safe play environment because staff check the premises each day to ensure there are no obvious hazards and they alert the caretaker if any maintenance is required. Resources are maintained in good condition and activities supervised carefully to support children in using equipment safely. Children regularly practise their fire drill to ensure they can evacuate the building quickly and safely in the event of an emergency.

Children's welfare is given high priority as the staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and access training to keep their knowledge up to date. They have appropriate documentation in place to support them in taking necessary action in the event of any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities and play experiences at the after school club. They are able to choose freely from the available resources and influence activities that are planned for them. They enjoy regular opportunities to practise their cooking skills, play pool and computer games, use construction materials and create a variety of art work using different materials.

Children's play experiences are often enhanced by special events that draw on the expertise of visitors, for example, developing Pirate themed activities, using puppets and exploring different art techniques. Children periodically respond to questionnaires that give them the opportunity to highlight their favourite activities or to suggest new ones. The relaxed atmosphere of the after school club enables them to spend their time quietly if they choose, chatting and socialising with the friends they make at the club.

Children enthusiastically participate in birthday parties that are organised by the after school club staff. They enjoy traditional party games such as musical chairs and pass the parcel. Some of the games encourage them to work together, for example, finding hidden letter cards to spell out a happy birthday message. They also enjoy team games and quieter activities such as spotting the difference between two very similar pictures.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children highly value their time at the after school club. It provides a valuable social function within the local rural community and all children attending the village school are also registered with the club. Children develop firm friendships at the club and it provides a relaxed, comfortable meeting place for them to socialise at the end of the school day. Children regularly use the club as a venue to celebrate their birthdays.

All children are supported extremely well to ensure that they can fully participate and become valued members of the club community. New children are welcomed and settle quickly as there is a clear induction procedure. Some children are offered additional responsibilities to challenge and interest them, whilst others receive effective individual attention to support them in participating in group activities. Children learn about cultural diversity through themed activities that introduce them to a range of different festivals and traditions. Those who speak English as an additional language are supported well in developing their communication skills.

Children's behaviour is very good. They have a clear understanding of the agreed rules of the group, which support them in ensuring harmonious and co-operative play. They respond well to the praise and encouragement they receive from members of staff, who also role model good behaviour such as using good manners and treating others with respect. Excellent support is given to children who are learning how to modify their behaviour in different social situations.

There is a very strong partnership with parents, who value the club as a social venue for their children as well as an essential service for working parents. Parents feel welcome within the club and use daily discussions effectively to exchange information about their children to support their continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. They are cared for by a consistent staff team who provide good continuity of care. Effective procedures are in place to ensure children have a safe, secure play environment. Excellent use is made of the club to provide a valuable social function within the local community where children can enjoy each others' company, engage in a range of activities and celebrate festivals and birthdays together.

All regulatory documentation is in place and includes a range of policies and procedures that underpin the good practice of the group. However, the child protection policy does not make clear what procedures are to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff. A clear information pack is available for parents to ensure they are familiar with how the group is operated. Clear registers are kept, which include a record of the times of attendance of children, staff and visitors to the group.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection the group has taken steps to improve children's health and safety by addressing the recommendations that were raised. They have devised a plan to ensure that children's continuity of care is supported in the event of the Manager being absent and have improved their register to ensure there is a clear record of children's attendance. Children practise their fire drill each term and their parents have been asked for permission for the group to seek medical advice or treatment in the event of an emergency. The complaints procedure now includes contact details of the regulator to support parents in the event of any concerns.

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):

- improve hand washing procedures before meal times to limit the risk of cross infection
- clarify procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer

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