

CHIPS Saturday Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	465326
Inspection date	13 October 2007
Inspector	Paula Durrant
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Registered person	The Trustees of Children's Integrated Playschemes (CHIPS)
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?

CHIPS Saturday Club is an established integrated out of school scheme which has been operational for a number of years, registering under the local authority in 1997. The group operates from the Hertford Selections Children's Centre which is located within the grounds of the Sele Secondary School on the outskirts of the town of Hertford. The group has access to a large hall, toilets, a kitchen and a quiet room. The Saturday Club serves the East Hertfordshire area and provides out of school care for children with special needs, which limit their access to other leisure provisions and their siblings.

There are currently 45 children on roll, of these, 15 are aged eight years and under. The group are registered to care for 30 children from three to eight years, although they also provide care for children up to 19 years. Children attend for a variety of sessions according to their age. This includes single sessions for younger and older children and some mixed aged groups. As an organisation the group also offer a parent support group known as 'Chattss' and a sibling group known as 'Kidzone'. This offers opportunities for socialising and carer information sharing.

The club opens three Saturdays out of every four during school term times. Sessions last from 10:00 until 12:30. At the time of the inspection there were seven paid staff and three volunteers working with the children. Staff have a variety of qualifications and experience.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health care needs are well maintained. Staff conscientiously adhere to detailed purposeful health and safety procedures which take account of the individuality of their client group. For example, promotion of specialist care like administering emergency life saving medication is undertaken or overseen by senior staff. This is extremely good practice. Exceptional links with health care professionals ensures retention of skills and also a supportive network for advice. A vast majority of staff hold a current first aid qualification. There are appropriate systems to register accidental injury and medication administered. First aid boxes are suitably resourced and accessible on site. Whilst the group have sound systems in place to support the application of emergency intervention in the event of a child having an accident on site, this is not always consistently applied when away from the setting. For example, although walkie-talkies are used to stay in contact with the main premises when out on a visit to the park, limited access to medical supplies meant that when an accident occurs, they do not have the equipment to manage the situation. Whilst the injury is a minor bump and does not require any medical supplies as such to be used, not having an accident record sheet on their persons leads to the information not being shared as promptly with the child's main carer as it would have been if this occurred on site. Staff are aware that full risk assessments which include health and safety protocols are covered for all outings, but acknowledge that impromptu visits such as the park are an oversight and require adding to their records.

Children learn to understand simple good health and hygiene practices as they adhere to the daily routine and the direction of adults. For example, they know to wash their hands after using the toilet, prior to eating and when returning from outside play. Children understand the reasons behind this task as staff skilfully introduce discussions about germs and the effects these may have on their bodies, making their tummies poorly.

Children receive a healthy snack mid-session of fresh fruit. Staff refer to their registration checklist to ensure dietary needs are adhered to. Children stay well hydrated as drinking water is accessible at all times. Supplementary drinks are also made available at set breaks.

Children gain plentiful opportunities to be active. Provision of a free-flow play area inside and out, weather permitting means that children benefit from accessing fresh air in addition to a range of larger resources such as bikes, sit-on toys, scooters and climbing apparatus. They also use hoops, bats and balls for joined up games with their peers such as team sports like football. This not only aids in the development of large muscles, but also in social skills as children learn to play together cooperatively negotiating rule structures. Children rest and are active in accordance to their needs. Provision of a quiet area supports this.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is high priority in this well-organised and maintained premises. All necessary safety measures are in place. Access to the provision is monitored. Visitors sign in and doors are secured following the end of registration. These remain locked until children depart. Late arrivals gain entry through the use of an intercom system. Vigorous risk assessments and frequent physical checks of the environment, activities and resources ensure children's total well-being. Written health and safety procedures are effectively implemented. For example,

staff undertake site visits of external facilities prior to children having access. This monitors suitability and minimises potential risk to the children. Supervision is exceptional. Children receive high levels of support due to their individual needs. Most have a one to one worker.

Children access a sufficient range of good quality age-appropriate resources. These are checked periodically to ensure they remain safe. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they are guided by staff. For example, children are encouraged not to put play dough in their mouths as it does not taste nice and to wait their turn on the slide so that they do not bump into another child. They also stay safe in the event of a fire as drills take place with suitable frequency.

Rigorous recruitment procedures monitor the suitability of staff working at the provision. All staff have undergone appropriate checking procedures and have been deemed suitable to work with children. Staff have a sound knowledge of child protection. A detailed child protection policy, a nominated person responsible for reporting concerns and appropriate training of staff means that adults working at the provision have a strong understanding of the processes to be followed in the event of a concern arising. This ensures that children's welfare is paramount.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The dynamic organisation, strong leadership, cohesive working procedures and an extremely skilled staff team inspire and execute an exceptionally purposeful programme of events for children with defined needs. Whilst the group places some direction within their planning mechanisms such as, through linking topics to themes when making leaf prints during the autumn term, significant emphasis is given to fun, frolic and enjoyment through natural social play.

Children truly thrive in this provision. They arrive eager to partake in what is on offer and pay limited attention to the departure of main carers. This is because staff build extremely positive and trusting relationships with the children in their care. Promotion of consistent key workers enables the building of rapport. This is paramount in maximising the benefit of the session for each individual child. Staff know children very well. They are able to offer assistance when required and for those more able children, they allow them the freedom to explore and learn through their own experimentation. For example, a child is given the space to climb without assistance on the external climbing apparatus as staff recognises the child's confidence and desire to challenge themselves physically, whilst staff watch on the side lines vigilantly monitoring if and when intervention is required.

Children's voices are truly heard and understood within this provision. Staff listen with intent to what children would like to do and where they can aid them in achieving their intentions. For example, they use a child's passion and interest in 'Harry Potter' to develop children's creativity in design as they mould a snake from dough and then replicate their final creation into a paper drawing that they can take home and keep. They also take the opportunity to extend children's communication skills as they converse about the child's interest using known and associated language from the 'Harry Potter' films such as 'Bassalst'. This invites positive social interaction as children rise to the challenge of sharing their known subject matter. It also leads to wider lessons being learnt such as when sharing how snakes move, acknowledging differences between ourselves and them, as snakes do not have legs to walk or ears to hear.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Inclusion is the main principle and driving ethos behind this organisation. They take pride in not only offering a service for children with defined need but also in complementing the care with the attendance of siblings too. This truly provides complete respite care for the family and also a fun and exciting place for siblings to socialise and gain support from adults who understand, and peers that share a similar life experience. This leads to exceptional bonds between families and the centre. Staff work with appointed children which again builds a firm foundation and link with a core family unit. Children truly do enjoy and achieve within this provision. They excel because they are provided with appropriate challenge in line with their developmental stage rather than their chronological age. This allows plentiful opportunities for children to return and practise skills, enabling the growth of self-belief and confidence. Children rise to the challenges set. They take pride and ownership in the group as they behave exceptionally well, especially when out away from the main site on trips. Parents welcome the support, sensitivity and skill of the staff who work within the setting. They are highly complimentary about the provision.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Vigorous recruitment procedures ensures selection of a highly skilled and intuitive work force who have a sound awareness of children with defined needs. Staff are exceptionally enthusiastic and responsive to the children in their care. They take time to speak with parents and carers in order to formulate appropriate individual care plans so that each child's needs are met and maximised. The group have in place cohesive working procedures. These underpin and support staff's working practice. Whilst the group continue to review and improve their written procedures drawing on their previous inspection report and reports of other settings in the organisation, a minor area for further consultation and review is that of the consistent management and effectiveness of emergency treatment. Whilst the group have in place sufficiently medically qualified staff, records and resources on site are not always accessible when undertaking impromptu visits away from the main premises such as when they visit the local park. The group acknowledge that this is an oversight as all main trips have a thorough risk assessment which includes a health and safety review. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group were required to continue to work in partnership with the school to address any identified safety issues and to meet any recommendations made by the Fire Safety Officer, in this case particularly relating to the frequency of fire drills and ensuring records are kept in line with fire department requirements. Children's safety is upheld as fire drills are undertaken with suitable frequency and records are maintained. Lastly they were required to develop the behaviour management policy to include bullying and the child protection policy to include ACPC (Area Child Protection Committee) procedures, 'What To Do If You are Worried A Child is Being Abused' and procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff. Children's welfare remains paramount as the

group have revised their written procedures. This underpins their working practice, in compliance with National Standards requirements.

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 the effectiveness of emergency treatment, this refers to having resources available when away from the site and records of any accidental injury sustained however minor documented at the earliest opportunity.

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