

# Monkhouse Out Of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY230810
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Andrea, Jane Lockyer
<b>Setting Address</b>	Monkhouse Junior School, Wallington Avenue, North Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE30 3SH
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<b>Registered person</b>	Monkhouse Out Of 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Monkhouse Out of School Club has been registered since 2003. It is based in a playroom and large hall within Monkhouse Primary School, North Shields, North Tyneside. It has its own entrance and has access to the school outdoor play facilities.

The club is open term time Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 08:55 and 15:30 to 18:00, and during school holidays Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 18:00. There are currently 57 children on roll, most attend on a part-time basis and the majority are from Monkhouse Primary School.

All staff working directly with children hold a childcare qualification to National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 2 or level 3. The manager is currently working towards NVQ level 4.

There are currently 45 children on roll, most of whom attend on a part-time basis.

Staff attend local network meetings and receive support and training opportunities from the local authority.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment, where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They manage their personal hygiene independently, such as washing their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet, helping to clean up, and following good hygiene procedures when involved in baking activities. They enjoyed a visit from a dentist, where they learnt the importance of good oral hygiene and how to look after their teeth by eating the right foods. Children are protected from the risks of cross infection and illness by the good health and hygiene procedures followed by staff. Good discussions with parents and comprehensive records ensure that children's individual health needs are met.

Children's dietary needs, including special requirements, are well catered for. Children are developing a good understanding of the benefits of a healthy diet. They are able to make choices from a good range of healthy meals and snacks, such as jacket potatoes, pasta, salads, selection of sandwiches, yoghurts and cereals. A selection of fresh fruit is available for children to help themselves to, and they have easy access to drinks throughout the session. Children are involved in planning menus and help to prepare their own meals and snacks.

Regular daily opportunities for physical exercise indoors and outside, such as obstacle courses, skipping, playing skittles, riding scooters, team games, skateboarding and gardening, help the children to enjoy exercise and develop new skills and healthy bodies. They use a wide variety of large and small equipment and have the freedom to explore the outdoor space. They also have good opportunities for rest and quiet activities according to individual needs.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a safe environment where the risks are identified and minimised. Safety procedures and risk assessments are effectively carried out by staff, which ensure that children are able to move around, freely, safely and independently. Staff give high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe both in and out of the premises. They effectively achieve a good balance between freedom and setting safe limits. This allows children to develop a sense of danger and become knowledgeable about how to protect themselves from harm. For example, they are involved in fire drills, are encouraged to pick up toys so as not to fall over them and follow good road safety when on outings. They particularly enjoyed a visit from the fire brigade, where they learnt about the importance of fire safety and were able to explore the fire engine.

Children use a comprehensive range of safe, good quality, and developmentally appropriate toys and resources, which are well organised to encourage independent access.

Children are well protected. Staff have good knowledge of child protection issues and procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures, which ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. However, the written child protection policy does not clearly state the procedure to follow if an allegation is made against a member of staff.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the childcare provision, they are very happy and settled. They eagerly engage in a wide range of stimulating and enjoyable activities, such as role play, art and design, board games and imaginative play, which enhance and promote their individual development and learning skills. Children recently enjoyed a 'Pirates Day' where they dressed up as pirates, made maps, hunted for treasure and sent messages in a bottle. Staff actively seek the views of children when planning activities, which gives them a sense of belonging and strong sense of self. Children are also encouraged to make their own comments in the 'comments' book.

Children's independence and confidence are promoted very well through a variety of opportunities. They are able to move around freely, taking part in planned activities or activities of their own choosing. They select freely from very well organised resources and are skilfully guided by staff to extend their learning. They enjoy affectionate, sensitive and caring relationships with staff who know them well and inspire them with their own enthusiasm.

Verbal and written comments from children clearly indicate that they enjoy attending the club and that they have fun.

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

The provision is good.

Children are developing a positive attitude towards others and gaining an understanding about the wider world. The staff promote equality and anti-discriminatory practice, resulting in all children feeling valued and free from discrimination. Staff provide a good range of activities that promote a positive view of the world, which increase children's awareness of diversity, for example, as they celebrate Chinese New Year, Divali and World Children's Day. However, there are limited resources available for children to access on a daily basis that reflect positive images of race, culture and disability. Effective arrangements are in place to care for children with special educational needs.

Staff have realistic expectations of children's behaviour. They implement a range of good strategies to promote positive behaviour that help children to understand right from wrong. Children respond positively to meaningful praise and encouragement, which contributes to their social skills, confidence and self-esteem, for example, as they help tidy up, share toys and games, and help one another. They show care and concern for each other and behave very well.

Children benefit from good relationships between staff and parents. Good verbal and written communication ensures that children's individual needs are met very well. Policies, procedures, a handbook and a noticeboard ensure that parents are kept well-informed of all aspects of the provision, and about the care, welfare and progress of their children. Written comments from parents clearly show that they are very happy with the care their children are receiving.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The well organised environment and good daily routines ensure that children are happy and well settled. Good opportunities are made for all children to be involved in free play, social

interaction, eating, resting and playing outside. This means that children are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning.

Staff work very well together; effective organisation, planning and communication between all ensures that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, which contributes to the smooth running of the club and provides children with stability and a sense of security. Their good knowledge, skills and positive attitude towards extended training enhances the care and welfare of all children.

Comprehensive policies and procedures are up-to-date and implemented effectively, helping to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. However, there is no formal policy or procedure in place for the recruitment or induction of any new staff. Overall, 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 provider agreed to: devise a system for planning and implementing a range of activities for children, which is appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs; ensure appropriate records are kept of outings; ensure that children are encouraged to follow good safety procedures at mealtimes; ensure records show times of children's attendance, staff and visitors present; ensure that anyone responsible for the preparation and handling of food is aware of and understands regulations relating to food safety and hygiene; ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice; ensure that children's individual needs are recorded; and ensure that the child protection procedure complies with Local Area Child Protection Committee.

Children's care and learning has been improved because they are now able to access a range of resources that are stimulating, fun and appropriate for their age and stage of development, some of which reflect positive images of race and gender.

Children's safety has been improved by the implementation of an outings policy, visitors book, daily register and a written child protection policy in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines. All staff have attended relevant food hygiene courses.

### **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):

- devise a robust system for the recruitment and induction of any new staff
- ensure that the child protection policy clearly states the procedure in the event of an allegation made against staff and develop staff awareness of this procedure
- continue to develop the range of resources to increase children's awareness of diversity.

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)