

The Den Breakfast & Afterschool Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	509667
Inspection date	14 December 2007
Inspector	Sheila Harrison
Setting Address	Bovingdon Primary School, High Street, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 0HL
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Registered person	The Den Management
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?

The Den Out of School Club opened in 1993 and the Breakfast Club opened in 2000. They operate from the main hall in Bovingdon Primary School and serve children from the school. There are currently 87 children from four to 11 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting is willing to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 07:45 until 08:50 and 15:15 until 18:00. Six part-time staff work with the children. Five of the staff have an appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority and has achieved the 'Aiming High' quality assurance scheme, Level 2.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are very well nourished with an interesting and substantial breakfast and tea time menu. This includes many varied fruit and vegetables. They have a good awareness of healthy eating as they were fully included in the changes to the menu to ensure it meets health eating

requirements. Children have free access to drinking water to ensure they are not thirsty. They have some useful chances to try new tastes as staff occasionally organise curry nights. Staff have secure systems to ensure dietary requirements are met with allergies and special diets catered for. Children coming in late from the school clubs have their tea saved for them.

Children's health is proficiently supported by staff with a secure knowledge of the club's health and hygiene procedures. Staff all have recent first aid qualifications and suitable accident and medication records are maintained. Children are beginning to understand good hygiene practices as they routinely wash their hands before meals and after the toilet.

Children have many valuable chances to exercise vigorously indoors and outside. They enthusiastically play skipping games indoors with children taking turns to help turn the rope. Staff ensure children succeed by controlling the speed of the skipping rope. Some children can skip very quickly and competently and some younger children are more tentative. They greatly enjoy playing outside in most weathers and have ordered a range of torches to allow them to play outside in the dark evenings. Children have suitable opportunities to rest as they watch the television for short periods or sit quietly and read.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and secure environment that is suitable for the purpose. They use suitable and safe equipment with sufficient space to move freely. There are helpful displays of the children's artwork and information for parents. The resources are appealing to children, appropriate to their age and stage of development. Toys are regularly checked to ensure they are complete and safe.

Effective steps are taken to promote safety as children regularly practise the emergency evacuation plan. Staff evaluate the regular risk assessments to identify and minimise risks inside and outdoors. There are efficient systems for daily risk assessments, to report any defects to the premises and to record visitors. Staff are vigilant and accompany young children to the toilet. There are secure procedures for the collection of children. Children are learning to keep safe as they are reminded of the club rules, for example, playing safely by not running indoors. They are protected from harm as the staff have adequate understanding of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy and eager to attend. They become engrossed in a wide range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities which provide high levels of challenge and are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Staff ensure there is an ample variety of equipment laid out ready for children to be quickly involved in play as they arrive in the morning. They observe the children at play to ensure the favourite toys are easily available. Children have a wide range of art and craft materials and their decorations are displayed on the school Christmas tree. They understand the properties of the various paints ensuring paint brushes are dry before using acrylic paint. Children suggest playing large group games as they enjoy 'wink wink murder'. This is well supported as staff join in the game.

Children play a dynamic part in the setting with the formation of the children's council. They volunteer to take part and there are representatives from the various age groups. All are

encouraged to take a turn on the council. They share responsibility for decisions about the provision, actively contributing to the development of the club routines. They meet regularly with an agenda chosen by the children. They put in suggestions for the changes of menu, reviewed the procedures for bullying and have developed a wish list for new equipment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Relationships are excellent at all levels. Children gain a high level of self-control. They express their needs appropriately, learn to negotiate and become sensitive and respectful in their interactions with others. There is an induction process and older children act as mentors for the younger or new children. Children understand the procedure to take turns on popular games such as the pool table and computer games.

Staff develop effective links with parents. Information is freely available to parents and they report that they and their children are very happy with the club. There is some information on how to complain and the complaints log is available. Parents are encouraged to take part in the organisation by volunteering to be on the committee.

Children are learning about the wider world, they celebrate traditional festivals and acknowledge the festivals important to others. Staff from the school will help the children with details of the Chinese New Year. Children benefit from some activities and resources that help children value diversity and show positive images of boys and girls. Staff can demonstrate that children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities will be adequately supported within the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by an efficient organisation. Staff understand and follow suitable policies. However, the recruitment and vetting procedure is not robustly carried out to support children's security. The setting has a proficient induction procedure and staff are well deployed allowing children to build effective relationships. Staff are knowledgeable and have a high regard for the children's happiness and comfort. They arrange for visitors to bring the insect zoo which is a great favourite with the children. They strive to improve the service to parents and children by continual evaluation and involvement in a nationally recognised quality assurance scheme. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting agreed to develop a policy relating to the non collection of children and to review the grouping of children to support their needs.

Children's welfare is well promoted as there is a suitable policy on the non collection of children. Children are skilfully supported as each child has a designated key worker with other children of their age.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that 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):

- review the recruitment and vetting procedure to ensure staff caring for the children are suitable to do so.

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