

Champs Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	218305
Inspection date	16 January 2008
Inspector	Sally Ann Smith

Setting Address	Staffordshire County Council, Henry Chadwick CP School, School Lane, Hill Ridware, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 3QN
Telephone number	01543 490354
E-mail	
Registered person	Champs Club
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Champs Club opened in 1998. It operates from the hall in Henry Chadwick Primary School, Hill Ridware. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 15:15 to 18:00 term-time only. There is a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 36 children from four to 11 years on roll.

The club employs three staff on a part-time basis, all of whom are qualified.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are aware of appropriate hygiene routines and wash their hands before eating snacks. A written prompt reminds children to do this. They independently visit the toilet throughout the session and both staff and peers remind children about hand washing. Paper towels are used for hand drying, therefore, reducing the risk of cross-infection. Staff follow appropriate health and hygiene procedures to ensure that the risk of infection is minimised. Parents are

required to collect children should they become unwell whilst at the club. Written consent is obtained from parents for medication but this is done through the school's procedures and is, therefore, not individual to the out of school club. The written procedure for emergency medical treatment is not explicit and does not clarify what it is intended to do. These factors may potentially compromise children's health. However, staff have suitable first aid qualifications which includes training in first aid for young children.

Children are provided with fresh fruit for snack which can be eaten whenever children choose. Juice is provided to drink and fountains are located adjacent to the toilets should children prefer water. On occasions staff and children have discussions regarding healthy eating and making appropriate choices. Although children's dietary requirements are recorded on their registration forms, staff are not familiar with all children's needs and, therefore, may not take heed of the information provided.

Children make good use of the indoor and outdoor space to engage in physical activity. Children tend to play outside in the spring and summer months when the evenings are lighter. They have access to a good range of equipment and enjoy making their own assault courses. Games such as football, cricket, rounders and uni-hockey prove popular. Good use is also made of the indoor space where children play table tennis or lay protective mats on the floor and practise a variety of different skills such as gambolling.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well-organised environment where staff are very friendly and approachable. Resources are laid out for children on their arrival and these are varied to meet individual preferences. Children know that they can ask for additional resources if required. Space is utilised effectively using the floor and table tops to provide different play opportunities whilst enabling children to manoeuvre around the room safely. A suitable range of equipment adequately supports children's care and play needs. All visitors are required to produce identification before entering the building and sign in and out. Procedures are in place should a child become lost or if they are uncollected and staff are familiar with these. Written permission is obtained from parents for other adults to collect children in an emergency.

Children at times learn about keeping safe and know that they must wear shoes or pumps so that they do not slip on the floor. Staff have devised an emergency escape plan in the event of a fire but these are practised very infrequently. They do not take account of children's varying patterns in attendance and any new members to the club. As a result, not all children are aware of procedures, therefore, compromising their safety.

Children are suitably protected from possible abuse because staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in protecting children in their care. They are aware of the importance of reporting any concerns. Staff are familiar with procedures should an allegation be made against a member of staff. A written procedure is in place for all areas of child protection which is kept in the operational folder.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enter the club enthusiastically and are eager to see what activities have been laid out by staff in readiness for their arrival. They are especially pleased when art and craft materials

are available as they particularly enjoy all aspects of messy play. Children can develop their imagination as they draw and paint freely, mixing and experimenting with colours. They take time to make masks out of paper and glue, sometimes completing the activity during the course of the week. Once finished, they paint and varnish their creations. They enjoy manipulating play dough into different shapes using their hands and various cutters.

Children seek out their favourite toys and games and are soon fully engrossed and absorbed in their play. They enjoy staff involvement in their games, whether it be a 'customer' at the shop or a 'nurse' in the hospital. Children are given choices to participate in planned activities if they choose and these are interesting and fun. For example, children explore winter themes discussing any new year resolutions they have made after Christmas and how these are to be achieved. They discuss ideas for their ideal holiday destinations and make imaginary postcards. A circus theme enables children to develop skills in juggling and they make and design clown masks. Themes around food looks at healthy and unhealthy choices as well as developing their written skills as they complete 'fruity' word searches and crosswords. Whilst staff complete planning, some discussion is initiated at snack time to determine children's preferences. This ensures that their time at the club is built on individual preferences and meets all children's needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about different cultures and the world around them. They are involved in planned activities to look at different festivals, cultures and people. During Chinese New Year, children learn how animals are assigned to particular years and identify their own animal symbol. They learn about the particular characteristics of their animal and consider whether they share any of these traits. Children explore different countries around the world, their customs, language, food and national flags. They look at different modes of transport and learn that not everyone uses a car. Children explore climate change and compare the average rainfall in Egypt as opposed to that in the United Kingdom and plot their observations on a graph. However, there are very few resources to reflect cultural diversity and disability, therefore, hindering children's knowledge and understanding of these areas. Currently, there are no children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities attending the club although suitable strategies are in place to ensure that all children are included. Staff liaise very closely with staff in school and children's parents to ensure children's individual needs are met.

Children play together well, sharing and taking turns with toys and equipment. Staff are consistent in dealing with children's behaviour and encourage children to resolve their own conflicts through negotiation. Children are engrossed in their play and staff ensure that they do not become bored and disruptive. Appropriate behaviour management strategies are in place and staff explain to the children why some behaviour is inappropriate. At times, children may be asked to sit away from an activity and quietly reflect on the consequence of their words or actions.

Staff liaise with parents on a regular basis, generally on a verbal basis although parents are sometimes sent a questionnaire asking what they want from the service. Parents' comments and suggestions are welcomed and they have access to the setting's policies and procedures. This includes the complaints procedure with the contact details of the regulator.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff are vetted to ensure they are suitable to care for children. The committee are aware of their roles and responsibilities in ensuring that appropriate checks are undertaken before appointing new staff. They know that they must notify the regulator of any significant changes. Children benefit from activities which are planned and organised to meet their individual needs and provide a variety of different play opportunities. Appropriate adult to child ratios are maintained to support children's care and play. Staff have appropriate early years qualifications and on occasions attend training to further develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in line with current guidance and legislation.

Policies and procedures are in place to support children's care and play although some aspects of the medication procedure and the registration system follow the school's procedures rather than being individual to the out of school club. In addition, some procedures are not consistently implemented which may impact on children's health and safety. Children's attendance is accurately recorded detailing their arrival and departure times. All documentation is stored safely, easily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

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 setting was required to improve: records regarding staff attendance; opportunities for children to have as much choice as possible during indoor and outside play; arrangements to ensure that at least one member of staff holds a current first aid certificate; the child protection policy regarding allegations whilst a child is in the care of the provider.

Accurate records of staff attendance are now maintained. Children have plenty of choice available and access a range of resources which are set out by staff at the beginning of the session. However, children can ask for any additional item of their choice. Staff are led by children's interests and children have opportunities to make decisions about their play. They discuss their likes and preferences and staff include this in future planning. Staff have appropriate first aid certificates which includes training for infants and young children. The child protection policy includes procedures should an allegation of abuse be made against staff.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 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 satisfactory. 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 further the good health of children by clarifying the written consent from parents to seek emergency medical treatment
- develop further staff's awareness of children's dietary requirements and take heed of the information provided
- improve further the steps to promote safety within the setting by practising fire drills which take account of patterns in children's attendance
- increase the range of resources to promote cultural diversity and disability
- improve further the procedures for obtaining prior consent to administer medication and for booking and recording children's attendance so that they are individual to Champs Club.

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