

Cavendish Afterschool Care Scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 116237

Inspection date 06 March 2008

Inspector Hilary Turner

Setting Address Cavendish School, Edensor Road, Chiswick, London, W4 2RG

Telephone number 0208 995 4228

E-mail

Registered person Cavendish Afterschool Scheme

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?

The Cavendish After School Club has been registered since 1993. The club is situated in Cavendish Primary School in Chiswick in the London Borough of Hounslow.

It is registered to care for 26 children aged between four to under eight years, although the club takes children up to the age of 12 who attend the Cavendish School. Currently 24 children are on roll of these nine children are under eight years. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The club operates from 15:15 to 17:45 every day during term time.

The after school club is managed by a parents committee. The setting has its own room, resources and equipment, and has access to the school playground for outdoor play.

A play leader and assistant play leader forms the staff group. The play leader has recently completed a diploma in Child Care and the assistant is currently completing an NVQ level 2 in Play Work.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health within the after school club is supported appropriately by staff who have a suitable knowledge of the club's health and safety procedures; children develop an awareness of keeping healthy through effective hygiene practices and consistent routines. For example, they have an understanding about why it is important to wash their hands at appropriate times and this ensures their health is protected. Suitable systems are in place for recording and administering medication, and both staff hold a valid first aid certificate. However, parental consent for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment has not been obtained and therefore children are not fully protected in the event of a serious accident or injury.

Improvements have been made to the nutritional content and variety of snacks offered to children. A greater emphasis is now placed on healthy eating and includes fresh fruits, jacket potatoes, pitta bread with a selection of nutritious fillings and noodles. Children's individual dietary needs are well met as staff are aware of any special dietary requirements. Children sit together for the main snack and chat happily to one another about their day at school. Staff are close by but do not sit with the children, and some foods are prepared while children are still engaged in activities and therefore they stand and eat before returning to their play. Consequently this does not promote a sociable occasion.

Children enjoy outdoor activities which supports and helps their physical skills as well as contributing to a healthy lifestyle. They benefit from good access to a large school playground where both girls and boys enjoy playing football, team games, climbing and skipping. Their good health is further promoted as children are reminded to take regular drinks, particularly after physical activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The after school club has suitable systems in place to keep children safe and secure, however, they are not consistently applied or rigorously implemented to ensure their safety. For example, although a recording system is in place to sign children in and out it is not completed on a daily basis; a daily risk assessment in the form of a check list is completed but hazards are not identified, such as cleaning materials in the toilet, and missing socket covers. Children are well supervised though as staff spend much of their time playing and interacting with the children both indoors and outside. Suitable security arrangements are in place and staff are vigilant in ensuring children are collected by known adults seeking permission from the parent if necessary before releasing children from their care.

Children know the basic rules for their safety at the club for instance, they know there is no running inside as this may cause an accident and fire drills are practised so they are familiar with how to evacuate the premises safely in the event of a fire.

Staff make the best of the generally acceptable environment to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. For example, they set out a varied and interesting selection of activities and resources prior to children arriving at the end of their school day. Children are able to make independent choices in their play as toys are well organised and easily accessible, and although

the toys, resources, and furniture are all well worn they are suitable for the ages of the children attending and sufficient in quantity.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the staff are aware of their roles when dealing with safeguarding children issues and the setting has all the required child protection documentation to support their practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive happily at the club. They are secure within the environment as they are familiar with the daily routines and have good relationships with staff and peers. There are sufficient toys and games for children of varying ages. Children quickly make choices in their play as the activities and resources are thoughtfully set out. Children involve staff as they enjoy an art and craft activity using colourful tissue paper to make a spring picture. Children are chatty and confident as staff speak warmly and kindly to them. They provide children with good support and lots of one-to-one attention. For instance, staff chat to children as they become involved in the art and craft activity, extending their learning, talking about springtime and the changes the season brings, and children join in sharing their knowledge.

Children clearly enjoy their time at the after school club and play well together. They engage others in their games, for example, as they play charades or build with Lego.

Children have good access to the large school playground, where they have lots of fun enjoying more energetic outdoor activities, such as football, skipping and playing on the school apparatus.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy positive relationships with staff and each other. They develop self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and make choices and decisions. Children's individual needs are well met because staff know the children very well.

Behaviour is good as children know what is expected of them because they have been involved in writing the club rules. Staff are positive role models they speak calmly and quietly to children and use positive strategies to reinforce appropriate behaviour. The atmosphere is harmonious as children interact happily and respectfully with one another. Children of all abilities are welcomed into the setting. However, there are limited toys and resources which promote diversity in order to help children develop a greater understanding about the world they live in.

Relationships with parents are friendly. Sufficient information is obtained from parents to ensure that their children are cared for according to their parents' wishes, however, although there is a complaints procedures in place it has not been updated in line with current legislation. Adequate communication systems keep parents well informed about their children's time at the club.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children share good relationships with staff who have been suitably vetted for their suitability to work with young children. Following the appointment of a new play leader and assistant play worker a year ago improvements have been made which has had a positive impact on the children. For example, the play leader is now suitably qualified and the play assistant is currently undertaking training in play work. Children are now provided with healthy and varied snacks and a range of interesting activities are planned for the children. The play leader is aware that further improvements are required and is committed to making continuous improvements for the benefit of the children.

The club has appropriate space to allow children to move around freely and comfortably both indoors and outside, and appropriate adult: child ratio's are met which means children are well supported.

Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the following recommendations were raised to: ensure risks of cross infection are minimised when children wash and dry their hands; develop resources which promote equality of opportunity; draw up a special needs statement about support for children with special educational needs and disabilities and a commitment to working with parents and other agencies; update documentation to include a statement of consistent procedures to be followed by the staff in the following areas; behaviour management and bullying; a child protection allegation being made against a member of staff; a lost or uncollected child; ensure that written parental permission is obtained for the seeking of emergency medical advice and treatment; times of children's attendance is recorded in the registration system and Ofsted Early Years is named as the Regulator in the complaints system.

All policies and procedures now hold the required information except for the complaints procedure which requires further updating in line with current legislation. Appropriate hygiene procedures in place means risk of cross infection to children is minimised, however, the seeking of parental consent for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment remains outstanding and although there is a system in place for recording children's times of daily attendance this is not consistently completed, and there are still too few resources which promote equal opportunities.

Overall the improvements made means children are better safeguarded.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 Ofsted has received one complaint relating to National Standard 1: Suitable Person, National Standard 2: Organisation, National Standard 3: Care, Learning and Play, and National Standard 7: Health. The concerns were raised in relation to the suitability of members of staff and staff qualifications, adult: child ratio's not being met, staff not being first aid trained and there being no structure or activities for the children.

Ofsted carried out an unannounced visit and found no breaches of regulation in relation to the concerns that had been raised. However, as a result of the visit additional concerns were

identified under National Standard 1: Suitable Person and National Standard 2: Organisation, and five actions were set.

Ofsted received a response to the actions and from the information provided, Ofsted was satisfied that the provider was meeting the National Standards and the provider remains qualified for registration.

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):

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- revise the arrangements for snack time to promote a more comfortable and sociable occasion
- make sure the daily risk assessments are rigorous enough to identify all hazards to ensure children's safety
- increase knowledge and understanding of the complaints procedure and update the policy in line with current legislation
- increase the provision of toys and resources that promote positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender, and disability
- ensure the systems in place for recording children and staff's times of arrival and departure is completed accurately on a daily basis.

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