

St Lawrence Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 200663

Inspection date 28 January 2008

Inspector Anne Felicity Taylor

Setting Address St. Lawrence C of E County Primary School, St. Lawrence Close, Napton, Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 8LU

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Registered person St Lawrence Out Of School 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St. Lawrence Out of School Club registered in 1999. The club uses the hall at St. Lawrence Primary School, Napton, Warwickshire. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each week day during term time from 07:45 to 08:45 and 15:15 to 17:45. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play areas and a summer house.

There are currently 82 children on roll aged from five to 11 years. All the children attend the school and come from the village and surrounding area. The club supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs three staff and cover staff are available. The supervisor holds an appropriate qualification and qualification requirements for staff are always met.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The organisation of the hall used by the setting enables children take part in physical play at any time. Children are generally considerate and understand the rules for indoor games. Children benefit from access to all the school grounds and play ground. They enjoy outdoor games during good weather and have picnics and use their summer house.

Children's health within the setting is supported successfully because there are clear lines of communication between the club staff, teaching staff and parents. They are cared for well if they have an accident or become ill because first aid trained staff are always on site and contact details for each child are in place. Children's well-being is monitored closely by staff and thorough procedures are in place for recording accidents, ensuring parents are fully informed about their child. Children develop independence skills well, getting ready for tea. Staff encourage children in effective personal hygiene routines, for example, hand washing after using the toilet and before eating, and therefore, children stay healthy.

Water is available to children all the time and children understand the importance of keeping themselves healthy with plenty of drinks. Children's dietary needs are always met as procedures ensure that all staff are clear about a child's individual needs. Staff have completed food hygiene training and ensure that food is stored and prepared safely. Children are offered a varied diet with lots of choice. They are offered various whole grain cereals and toast at breakfast club, and a hot tea or toast in the afternoon, for example, pasta with tomato sauce or beans on toast. Fresh fruit is offered.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are secure and confident in the club environment where there is plenty of space in the well-maintained building. Children benefit from the policies and procedures in place to ensure their safety, for example, arrival and departure procedures, registration and the security of the building. Risk assessments are in place and maintained to a high standard, for example, for going on a picnic. Therefore, children are protected from hazards.

Children enjoy the wide range of appropriate play equipment which is well-maintained and cleaned regularly. Children are comfortable requesting specific items and activities, organising their own play with friends. They have easy access to a lot of equipment. Staff are deployed well, ensuring children are supervised in all areas at all times.

Children have a good awareness of staying safe, for example, not running in specific indoor areas in order to avoid collisions and accidents. They are given regular opportunities to discuss and practise emergency evacuation, and are therefore comfortable with the procedure. Fire safety equipment is checked regularly. Good procedures are in place for children arriving and leaving the club which take account of the age and confidence of the children concerned.

Children's welfare is generally safeguarded as senior staff have a thorough understanding of child protection procedures and are able to recognise abuse and neglect. Clear procedures are not in place should professional abuse be suspected which may compromise children's welfare. Staff complete child protection training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and happy in the club's welcoming environment. They respond well as they are greeted personally by staff and their friends. They settle quickly to the wide variety of activities provided. Children build strong relationships with their peers and with staff, enabling them take part in organised or supervised activities or to plan and organise their own play and have lots of fun.

Children enjoy discussing the plans for the session and develop confidence as they request specific activities, for example, drawing and colouring in pictures. There is a wide range of resources which spark the children's interest and keep them busy, for example, an 'eye toy' for making videos or playing interactive group games. Children are skilled at building dens and develop imaginative play with great enthusiasm. Planning for the club is very flexible and includes cooking and art and craft sessions, for example, glass painting. Staff try to compliment any themes the school may be completing, for example, festival celebrations. Relationships between the children are strong as they chat and play together, with staff providing unobtrusive supervision.

Children are offered opportunities to increase their learning and skills as they complete homework and read in the library. All the children benefit from active physical play indoors and outdoors. They are able to take full advantage of the school grounds for walks, picnics and organised games. Children are offered appropriate interesting activities because staff take responsibility for communicating well and responding flexibly to the requests of the children, effectively ensuring the children's well-being and enjoyment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to develop respectful relationships with staff and each other because the staff are good role models and encourage good manners and consideration. Children's confidence and self-esteem increases in the busy environment, as they select activities and talk to staff, voicing their opinions and choices. Children are pleased because they can make choices about what they play with and what they can have to eat. They appreciate the praise offered when they respond to requests from staff and help each other, for example, clearing up after tea.

Children generally behave well within the boundaries set by staff and the club rules. They are valued as individuals and in their family context. The policies and procedures in place ensure that all children are included in all activities and their needs are met, for example, dietary requirements. They are developing a good understanding of the needs of others as they are praised for sharing and showing concern for others. Books and equipment are in place that show children positive images of all areas of equal opportunities, effectively raising their awareness of others.

Partnership with parents and carers is good. Relationships are strong and very friendly and parents appreciate the flexible service offered by the club. They see the club as a valuable community facility. Parents are able to discuss all aspects of the care offered with staff and the daily events and their child's achievements. Good information is provided for parents including activity plans, policies, weekly menus and any community and school news. However,

the complaints policy does not include details of how to contact the regulator which may restrict parent's choices.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment because the registered person uses appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures. Children are supported well in their play and recreation because the ratio of staff to children is constantly reviewed and maintained correctly. Staff communicate effectively amongst themselves and with school staff and parents, ensuring the promotion of the children's health, safety and learning. Relaxation and enjoyment is a priority.

Children benefit from the diverse skills of the staff team, enjoying opportunities for conversations, organised activities and appropriate support when planning new activities. Staff complete short courses and add to their existing qualifications, for example, first aid and play work. They are dedicated to the well-being of the children and work well as a team during the daily routines and activities. The flexible planning and organisation ensures that the children have their individual needs and aspirations met.

All staff and parents have easy access to all policies and procedures which generally work in practice, ensuring children's safety and enjoyment. Parents are asked to provide all the relevant information to ensure the service meets their needs, for example, days and times required. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection the setting was asked to ensure that at least half of the childcare staff have appropriate qualifications and to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that provide positive images of disability. The supervisor has completed training to Level 3 and she is present at all sessions with one other member of staff, therefore, the qualification requirements are met. Children now have 'Small world' play and puzzles that provide positive images of disability, which enables them to be aware of others.

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):

- review the child protection policy to ensure a clear written procedure is in place in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer
- review the complaints information and policy to ensure the address and telephone number of the regulator are easily available to parents.

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