



THE LIAS CLUB

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	591007
Inspection date	18 July 2005
Inspector	Sheila Dawn Flounders
Setting Address	Long Itchington CE Primary School, Stockton Road, Long Itchington, Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 9QP
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Registered person	THE LIAS 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?

Long Itchington After School Club (LIAS) opened in 1996. It operates from a large classroom within Long Itchington Primary School, which is situated on the edge of the village. They also have use of the school hall and the large outdoor playing areas. They share the premises with the pre-school. Children attend from the school only during term time and from the surrounding area for the holiday playscheme.

A maximum of 26 children may attend the group or 32 when the school hall is being used. There are currently 45 children from 4 to 11 years on roll 35 of whom are under 8 years. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The club is able to support children

who have special needs or who speak English as an additional language. The group opens on weekdays during school terms and some holidays. Sessions are from 08.00 until 09.00 and 15.15 to 18.00 in term time and either 09.00 to 17.00, 09.00 to 14.00 or 12.00 to 17.00 in the school holidays.

Six part-time staff work with the children, three of whom have early years qualifications. LIAS are members of 4 Children, the out of school association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy physical activity on a daily basis. They have good access to the school's outdoor facilities and play a variety of games when the weather is good such as tennis or badminton. They also climb and balance on the school's outdoor apparatus, ride around on scooters and play ball against the wall. Inside they have access to the hall to run off excess energy and use dance mats attached to the playstation. Children learn about healthy living when they are encouraged to play outside and then reminded to wash their hands afterwards. Staff often join in with the outdoor activities to encourage the children to participate.

Children stay healthy because measures are in place to minimise the risk of infection such as the sickness policy, staff training in food hygiene and the cleaning routines. Also staff are aware of the medication that some children use and liaise closely with school when any illnesses are rife. Children understand simple good health and hygiene practices with most automatically washing their hands before eating and after messy play or toileting with reminders given to those who forget. Younger children are able to rest according to their needs and quieter activities are available for these times. Satisfactory medication records are maintained, although emergency medical consent is not gained for all the children, this might cause a delay in them accessing treatment.

Children are provided with a basic snack each evening which sustains them and they have very good access to drinks, which they can get whenever they are thirsty. Parents provide packed lunches during the playscheme, which are stored appropriately. Children have their health and dietary needs met because the staff ensure that they find out full details of any allergies before children attend.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and safe environment which is laid out to allow plenty of space for moving around the room to access the various activities whilst maintaining clear walkways and access to the emergency exits. Children are kept away from the side gate as staff are aware that some of the younger children may try to go out and staff always accompany children who are playing outside. Children use suitable and safe equipment with staff ensuring that all resources used are suitable

for the ages of those attending and risk assessments are completed, with a daily visual check done. Children's safety is enhanced as staff have trained to use the fire extinguishers. Children are kept safe on any outings away from the premises with a good procedure in place which includes taking a first aid kit and mobile phones.

Children learn to protect themselves and to understand how to keep themselves safe. They have had no serious accidents and have been made aware of the fire evacuation plan through practises which have been held at various times. Parents are also urged to talk to their children about remaining safe. Children are protected because the staff understand their role in child protection and know what procedures to put in place when necessary. They are cared for by staff who have most of the relevant skills, knowledge and experience to keep them safe although none of them have attended health and safety training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children greatly enjoy their time at the club. They are able to relax, choose what activities they want for themselves and are given time and space to develop their interests. They become involved in a variety of craft activities, with some children spending long periods during the visit perfecting their technique to produce mirror effect pictures. Some of the younger children were fascinated with the keyboard, ranging from simple tunes, through the use of percussion effects and finally evolving into a game of musical statues. Children develop confidence and self-esteem as they are allowed to follow these interests by the staff and are then given help and support when they need it. They are confident to ask for other resources when they need extra craft supplies or to access those pieces of equipment that are put away, such as the dance mat.

Children use their initiative such as the younger boys who developed their general play into a puppet show, from behind a covered bookcase. They acquire new knowledge and skills during their play for example the older boys encouraged to discover for themselves how to play a new card game who then after following the instructions for a while were able to carry on and play independently. This also shows how well they co-operate with each other, with most children interacting with a variety of others during the session. However, it is also accepted by staff that some children like to play with the same friends all the time. Children respond well to challenge as they access activities which are familiar to them but which also allow them to build up their skill levels such as ball games, creative activities or on the playstation.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have their individual needs met very well by the setting. They make their own decisions about which activities they want to be involved in and know what resources are available if they want to choose something that is not already out. They are allowed to help themselves to craft materials, with appropriate support

given to the youngest children. They decide when they want a drink and whether they want something to eat. Staff remind children what is available, but respect their decision if they decline the offer. Children with additional needs are welcomed into the group and allowed to pursue their individual interests, with increased levels of support available when needed.

Children are happy and settled in the group and form strong relationships with each other and the staff. They take part in a variety of activities together such as playing musical statues or performing a puppet show for some of the staff to watch. The older children respect the differing needs of the younger ones by helping them with equipment such as how to work the dance mat and by acting as 'buddies' to new children. All the children are aware of the boundaries of the setting, which they help to set. They understand that they are mainly for their safety and respond positively to any reminders given. They are eager to be part of the daily routines, with several children volunteering to clean the table for snack time. Children are well supported during their time at the club as staff ensure they find out all relevant information from their parents and from the school.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from good use of space, time and resources, with high levels of staff who are well deployed throughout the session, which enable them to have a positive experience in a safe and healthy environment. There are alternative arrangements made for physical play during wet weather and resources are well supplemented by the use of the toy library. Thus, the club meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

However, the organisation of administration and paperwork is not as efficient. Most policies are available, although not all in the recently updated version. Accidents and incidents are satisfactorily recorded and children's contact details are reviewed with parents. Some evidence of the completion of risk assessments is on site but the assessments were not available for inspection. Currently emergency medical consent is only gained for a few of those attending, which puts some children at risk. Changes in the committee and staffing have not been notified to Ofsted to allow the vetting procedures to be completed.

Improvements since the last inspection

The setting has improved the variety of resources available to children which provide positive images to make them more aware of wider society. They have made some improvement to children's safety due to staff attending child protection training and the drawing up of risk assessments, although no staff have attended health and safety training. They have addressed some of the organisational issues, with ongoing policy reviewing in place and have ensured that parents have better access to information.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- ensure that a member of staff attends health and safety training
- ensure that emergency medical consent is obtained for all children attending
- ensure that Ofsted is notified of all changes to staffing and the committee to allow the vetting procedures to take place.

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