

St Luke's After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY225984
Inspection date	30 January 2008
Inspector	Marcia Robinson
Setting Address	St Luke's School, Saunderness Road, Isle of Dogs, London, E14 3EB
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Registered person	London Borough of Tower Hamlets
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. Luke's After School Club and holiday play scheme became registered in 2003 and is run by Tower Hamlets Junior Youth Service. It operates from St Luke's primary school in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Children have access to a class room, hall and a large playground. The out of school club opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 15:10 to 17:30. A holiday play scheme also operates at the provision and is registered to provide care for 78 children, of these no more than 30 may be aged between three and eight years. Sessions are from 09:00 to 18:00, five days a week.

The out of school club is registered for a maximum of 62 children, of these no more than 30 may be aged between three to eight years. Children over the age of eight years also attend. There are currently 50 children on roll, of whom 27 are aged under eight years. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group employs six staff, four of whom hold a relevant early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are kept healthy through being cared for in a clean environment. Hygiene standards are good throughout as staff wash their hands and wear disposable gloves before serving food. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and they do so automatically after visiting the toilet. Children's health care needs is well ensured by most staff who are qualified in first aid and their clear understanding of the procedures to follow should a child become ill in their care. This is further supported by clear systems for recording accidents and medication administered to children. Children's nutritional health is promoted well by staff who discuss their dietary needs with the parents and ensure a written record is kept. Children benefit from eating healthy snacks such as fresh fruit, cheese straws, crackers and yogurts. They have access to a choice of diluted juice or water at snack times and throughout the session to ensure their thirst needs are met. Although, children sit together in small groups at snack times, staff do not always sit with them to create a more sociable atmosphere. Children confidently place their empty cups in a bowl when they have finished drinking but more opportunities with simple tasks such as laying the table, preparing their own snacks and pouring their own drinks, would further enhance children's self help skills.

Children have good opportunities to play outside in the fresh air and take part in a wide range of physical activities, to promote their health and well-being. For instance, netball, dancing and various team games, take place both in the playground and indoors in the large hall on a daily basis.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in premises that are well maintained to a good standard of decoration. Colourful displays and well presented notice boards, creates a welcoming environment. Children can move confidently and safely around the child friendly setting as the deployment of staff members ensure that children are well supervised when playing indoors and out in the playground. The environment is spacious and effectively organised with areas for children to rest and play. Children independently select from a good range of toys and equipment, which conform to safety standards. This is because, staff regularly check and disinfect the toys for children's health and safety. Children benefit from playing in a generally safe and secure environment. This is because, good procedures are in place for the safe arrival and collection of children. For example, a member of staff completes the register on their arrival at the club and parents sign children out as they leave. Children are well protected in the event of a fire as evacuation procedures are carried out each term and are appropriately recorded. Children are protected from the risk of accidental injury, because most of the necessary safety precautions such as socket covers and radiator guards are in place. Staff assess risks through daily safety checks and formal risk assessments to ensure the premises are safe for the children. However, occasionally, not all hazards are fully identified and children are at some risk from the possibility of the stacked towel roll holders, tumbling as they are accessible to children in the toilet area. Children are protected as most staff are aware of the four categories of abuse and of their responsibility for recording and reporting any child protection concerns. The manager has attended Safeguarding training and staff are booked to attend. Information on the Local Safeguarding Children Board is available for staff to refer to.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive happily and are welcomed by staff. They are eager to participate in a good range of interesting activities which are suitable for their age and geared to their individual interests. They are excited and involved in choosing activities; much of which helps them to make progress in all areas of their development. Activities include art and craft, such as painting, clay, simple cooking, sand and water play, role play, football, computer and board games and a wide selection of books. Children are involved in planning activities this enables them to develop their interests. They enjoy playing hair dressers with their dolls and using construction equipment to create model buildings and houses, thus promoting their creativity. Children freely move from one area to another and are spontaneous in their play and interactions with other children and adults. They are able to take turns when playing both indoor and outdoor games; such as, dominoes and football where they are kind and considerate towards each other. Staff are attentive to the children's needs and are available to offer one to one support. For example, staff are well deployed to interact with children in group games and adult led activities. The children have sufficient opportunities to develop their independence and confidence by selecting resources off low level units and through displays of their art work. The staff know the children well and do take time to talk to them, ask them questions and listen to their experiences. This promotes children's communication skills and makes them feel valued.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The play club is mainly used by children attending the school. There is a broad mix of children and staff from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Children are treated with respect and receive individual care because their needs are known to the staff team. Their understanding of diversity is promoted well through the planned celebration of different community festivals, such as Chinese New Year and through play resources, such as dressing up clothes, puzzles and books that reflect positive images of cultures, gender, religion and language. There are good systems in place to identify and support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Staff work in partnership with parents, teachers and other outside professionals to meet the needs of the children. Children play and behave well together, they enjoy sharing and taking turns. Staff involve them in drawing up the club rules and set clear boundaries to help children learn right from wrong, reinforcing rules when necessary. Children receive sufficient praise and encouragement to promote their self esteem. They benefit from the good working relationships between the staff team and their parents. Clear information is displayed on the notice board, including information about the setting's policies, procedures and activities. Parents are also well informed about their child's routine and achievements as they receive daily feedback and have access to the club's complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children are safeguarded and benefit from a well-established team of suitably qualified and experienced staff who have undergone the necessary vetting procedures, to determine their suitability to work with children. They are well cared for by staff who hold appropriate knowledge and skills to do their jobs through the effective recruitment procedures in place. Children's welfare is further ensured by the provision of suitable contingency plans in place to cover for staff absences

so that children are well supervised. Children confidently make independent choices about their play because resources and activities are well planned so children are happy and relaxed. They are playing in a provision where space and resources are organised well to meet children's needs for active and quiet play. Children's health and well-being are fully promoted because the out of school club has all legally required documentation in place for the safe and efficient management of the provision. This includes accurately maintained attendance register, accident and medication records, which are stored in a confidential manner and well maintained. An operational plan is available and includes mostly fully detailed policies and procedures, which are available to all parents and staff both at induction or on request. The manager demonstrates a generally good understanding of the requirements for out of school care as the certificate of registration is displayed for parents' information and she is aware of the procedures to follow when dealing with complaints. However, the current system for recording complaints is not in line with guidance as it does not take account of revisions made to the National Standards in 2005.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to give more attention to the organisation of the tea time event and the promotion of healthier eating. This recommendation has been partially addressed with a healthy eating policy and good practices in place which has a positive impact on children's health. However, there is still further improvements needed in the organisation of tea time, to create a more sociable occasion. Consequently, a further recommendation has been raised with regards to this.

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):

- continue to improve the organisation of snack time and the promotion of children's self help skills
- continue to develop risk assessments to ensure all potential risks are highlighted and positive steps are taken to minimise them

- update the system for logging complaints so that it takes account of revisions made to certain criteria of the National Standards made in October 2005

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