

Old Swan Youth Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY240653
Inspection date	12 February 2008
Inspector	Gillian Sutherland
Setting Address	23 Derby Lane, Old Swan, Liverpool, L13 6QA
Telephone number	0151 228 1574
E-mail	
Registered person	The Trustees of Old Swan Youth 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?

Old Swan Out of School Club is an open access scheme and provides care for children after school and during school holidays. They initially opened in the 1930s as a Boy's Club and were registered in July 2003. Old Swan Youth Club is a registered charity managed by a board of trustees. A maximum of 100 children may attend at any one time. The facility operates from three floors of a large converted detached house and there is full disabled access and facilities. There is an enclosed court yard at the front of the premises for outdoor play activities.

The club runs term time on Tuesday and Thursday from 16.00 to 18.30 and during school holidays from 10.00 to 12.00 and 13.30 to 15.30. They also run an inclusion club on Fridays and children with learning difficulties or disabilities are attending. They are located in Old Swan and primarily serve local children and their families.

There are currently 138 children enrolled as members aged from five to 13 years.

The senior youth worker has a diploma in Youth and Community Work and has been managing the club for over 20 years. He is supported by a number of staff and volunteers. The majority of the staff team either hold a qualification in youth work whilst others are working towards

obtaining a relevant qualification. They network with the Merseyside Play Action Council and Liverpool Early Years Development Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children access their choice of drinks and snacks during the session as these are purchased by the children themselves from the café style bar. They learn about the importance of healthy eating through discussions with each other and with the staff. The choices of drinks and snacks have been suggested by the children themselves and include toast, hot dogs and cereal bars. They do keep some chocolate but staff explain they have moved away from making the very high sugared, jelly type sweets available to the children. Drinking water is freely available to them in the café throughout each session. The manager of the setting explains they have made a choice of different fresh fruits available for the children to purchase during the summer sessions.

Children are actively encouraged to develop their understanding of keeping themselves healthy in terms of their personal care, as they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times throughout the session.

Children are offered a range of activities and play experiences throughout each session and many of these help them develop their physical skills as they access a variety of games and resources. During the summer children have access to supervised outdoor play in the play space at the front of the building and outings to places of interest may be organised by the staff.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for within a safe and secure environment and there are appropriate systems in place for registration and also regarding the collection of younger children at the end of each session. For example, children whose parents have identified on their enrolment form that they would like to collect them, are encouraged to wait until their parent arrives.

Staff are vigilant about children's safety at all times, and areas used are checked by the staff prior to each session operating. Children are safe whilst the club is in operation as staff are alert to their whereabouts at all times. If a child decides to leave the open access scheme then they inform a member of staff that they are going and sign themselves out.

Appropriate documentation is available regarding the safety of the building and the checks carried out to ensure that equipment used is safe. For example, documents available indicate when the fire safety equipment has been checked and also a record of when the smaller electrical items in the building have had safety checks carried out. Fire drills are practised with the children to ensure they are aware of the evacuation procedures that would be implemented in the event of a fire.

Children access toys and equipment which are appropriate for their age and level of development. The toys and resources are set out in such a way that children and young people can freely access the ones they want to play with. Children are aware that alternative resources are available

on request. All areas are prepared by staff for the children's arrival and a range of activities are set out.

Children's safety is promoted as staff gain a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of child protection issues through the policies and procedures available. A written Local Safeguarding Children Board policy is available and this document contains the contact details for the relevant agencies should a member of staff have any concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at this out of school and open access club, where they can choose to relax or to engage in a range of interesting activities. They have access to equipment and resources that cover a range of play experiences, for example, art and craft, games and puzzles, physical play activities, the computer, and quieter activities, such as relaxing in the sensory room and reading. Sessions have a structure to them but the activity programme is flexible and children are free to choose exactly which activity they want to access or participate in.

Children are provided with many opportunities to develop their small physical and manipulative skills, as they use a range of small equipment, including scissors, glue spreaders, sticky paper and pieces of coloured felt. The children are happy and well supported by staff who take a genuine interest in them and listen carefully to what they have to say. They are encouraged to socialise and this aspect is particularly promoted throughout the sessions as staff make time to discuss with children their interest and hobbies.

During each session children can freely select which activities they want to participate in and the range of such activities include play board games, having supervised access to the computers or experiencing the sensory room where they can relax whilst chatting away to each other. Children attending can also participate in a wide range of physical play activities including supervised games in the gymnasium or as they freely access the snooker or table tennis equipment.

Children's communication skills are well supported through good quality adult-child interaction. As a result, they are confident communicators, as they engage readily in conversations with one another, with the staff caring for them and also with visitors present.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed and play a full and active part in the out of school and open access club. Children have good opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them through planned activities, such as the celebration of such festivals as Chinese New Year, Diwali, Christmas and Easter. Children easily access resources and materials which promotes their understanding of diversity.

Children with particular learning and developmental needs are supported and included in the activities available. Staff work closely with parents to ensure the individual needs of their child are met.

Children's behaviour is good. They are encouraged to share and take turns with toys, equipment and opportunities. Children actively contribute to the running of the club and have helped to

develop the club 'rules'. Staff are clear and consistent about their expectations of children's behaviour, they are aware of and use appropriate behaviour management strategies when necessary, and as a result children are clear about what is expected of them. Staff are good role models for children; they use good language and show an active interest in the children who attend, which results in children being happy and settled.

Staff gain relevant information about the children's needs and requirements prior to the children attending the club. They seek the appropriate consents for each child and such consents include emergency treatment, outings, face painting and photographs. Parents of the children attending are asked to identify on the enrolment form whether their child will be collected at the end of each session or whether their child can freely leave the club at any time. They are also made aware that if they do indicate that children will be collected then staff encourage children to wait until their parent or designated adult comes to collect them.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for within a safe environment as the manager and staff working with the children have had satisfactory clearances. However there are no details available of the staff clearances. There are a number of staff who hold emergency first aid certificates and all of these are on display and are renewed as they expire every three years. There is currently no member of staff who holds a paediatric first aid certificate. Some of the staff who currently work in this setting hold a youth work qualification, whilst others are working towards one. Staff have opportunities to access additional training and staff's individual certificates are on display in the office. There are a number of volunteers who also work in this setting.

The premises are well organised on a daily basis. Indoor space is set out prior to children's arrival and offers them access to a variety of play experiences. Most of the legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, however, there are some policies including the complaints policy which does not comply with current legislation and guidance.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the setting has purchased additional resources and increased activities that further promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. They also have an incident book which would be used to record any incident of physical restraint.

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 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 the required information relating to staff clearances are available at all times
- ensure that the complaints procedure fully complies with current guidance and includes the contact details of the regulator, Ofsted
- review the current procedure regarding first aid certificates and ensure that at least one person holds a first aid certificate which includes training in first aid for infants and young children.

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