



Cherubs & Imps - (Marlfields)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY233386
Inspection date	05 September 2005
Inspector	Sue Anslow
Setting Address	Marlfields C P School, Waggs Road, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4BT
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Registered person	Trudi Robin Wong
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?

Cherubs and Imps (Marlfields) is one of two out of school clubs run by the same provider. It opened in 2002 and operates from a room adjacent to Marlfields C P School in Congleton. A maximum of 35 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. Children from the age of 3 years to 12 years of age attend the club. The out of school club is open each weekday during term time from 15.00 to 18.00 and during the holidays from 08:00 to 18:00. Children have access to the school grounds for outdoor play.

There are currently 78 children aged from 3 years on roll in the after school club and

the holiday club. Children come from five local schools. The out of school club supports children with special needs.

The out of school club employs nine staff including the provider/manager. Four staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and one staff is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual health and dietary needs are met well because staff work closely with parents and respect their wishes and requirements. Children learn the importance of good hygiene because staff follow daily routines with children, reminding them to wash their hands after using the toilet or when they have been handling the pets.

Children thoroughly enjoy a range of physical activities which promotes a healthy lifestyle. They play outside in the school grounds at every opportunity using wheeled toys, bouncing on the trampoline and bouncy castle and playing ball games such as football and cricket.

Children learn about healthy eating because staff provide snacks which include fresh fruit and salad items. Fresh drinking water is provided at every meal and snack time and jugs of water are available outside for children to help themselves to during physical play. Children attending the holiday club are asked to provide their own packed lunch. However, parents are not given useful advice about the contents and storage of the lunch boxes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children can move freely around the premises, both indoors and outside, because the space and resources are organised to suit their needs and growing independence. Children feel welcomed and supported because they can help themselves to the toys and play equipment easily and they have sufficient space to play different activities at the same time.

A wide range of good quality toys and play equipment enhance children's enjoyment and development in all areas. Children can help themselves to items easily from low drawers and shelves, where items are well organised in boxes and mostly labelled. A wide range of sports equipment and other outdoor toys enhance children's physical development and comfortable furniture and child sized tables and chairs meet the needs of all ages.

Children are cared for in a secure environment where children's safety is mostly protected. Appliances used are checked annually, evacuation procedures are

practiced and all parts of the premises and equipment used by the children, is regularly risk assessed by staff. However, hazardous cleaning materials were found in an unlocked cupboard and a metal spade was left unattended in the playground. Children learn how to keep themselves safe through well practiced safety routines such as wearing helmets when on scooters or skates and putting toys away when finished with, especially when playing on the floor.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff have sound knowledge of child protection procedures and are aware of their roles and responsibilities. A comprehensive child protection policy is available for parents to read in the booklet given out with the enrolment forms.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well in the out of school club. They enter confidently and make themselves at home. They engage well in their chosen activities and play happily and co-operatively. Children are encouraged to choose and help themselves to the toys and equipment, organising their own games and moving freely between indoors and outdoors as they wish. This encourages children to be independent and take responsibility for each other and their actions.

Children enjoy a balanced range of stimulating activities, promoting their interest and enjoyment and enhancing their all round development. Staff organise an art and craft activity at every session which children can participate in or not as they wish. Children can relax or be active according to their needs and interests, although sitting for long periods at the play station is discouraged.

Children are well supported by staff who are skilled at encouraging children to extend their experiences and at listening and talking to them. Every session includes a short 'news time' in which children can tell each other about things that have happened to them or places they have been to, while the rest of the group listen quietly.

Children play happily and co-operatively together, with the older children often including the younger children in their games. Children learn to share and take turns, showing care and respect for each other. A small group of children were playing at 'weddings', with the older children helping two younger children dress up and walk slowly linking arms. Later, an older child held hands with a younger child to steady her on the trampoline.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel a sense of belonging and develop trusting relationships with staff because they are treated with equal concern and have their individual needs met well. Children learn something of the wider community we live in through a variety of play experiences and resources which reflect people who are different from

themselves.

Children's welfare is promoted because staff work closely with parents on any issue of concern or particular requirements. Children with special needs are welcomed and integrated into the group. They participate in all activities to the level of their ability, which helps to promote their all round development.

Children behave well and their behaviour is promoted through meaningful praise and positive role modelling by the staff. Children's contributions and achievements are valued and rewarded which promotes their self confidence and self esteem. Staff sit with children during snack times encouraging discussions about things they have done or seen but commenting that, although it is nice to talk to each other, if everyone talks at the same time what individual children say cannot be heard.

Effective working relationships with parents results in a good understanding of children's needs. Children benefit from parents involvement in their day to day routines and outings. Children feel a sense of belonging in the relaxed and friendly environment and individual needs are responded to well because staff take time to discuss with the parents, any situation which may be affecting the child. Children's care is supported well through written agreements and appropriate consent forms signed by parents. Booklets, brochures and newsletters keep parents fully informed of the club's activities, events, policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The registered person uses effective recruitment procedures and carries out appropriate checks before hiring staff. A range of training opportunities are offered to staff in order to gain suitable qualifications or update skills. The induction programme and good teamwork make sure all staff work together well to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement.

Children feel at ease and relaxed in this lively, active, enjoyable environment. The organisation of the premises and resources allows children to make choices and become independent. Staff work well together to provide stimulating and fun activities for the children, promoting their confidence and self esteem.

Children's health, safety and achievement is promoted and managed well because staff ensure records and other documentation are kept correctly and up to date.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Recommendations made at the last inspection have now been complied with.

Written risk assessments of the premises, outings and equipment are thorough and updated regularly which protects children's safety at all times. The child protection

policy has been updated in line with recommendations and ensures staff have access to correct procedures if needed. The complaints procedure includes the address and telephone number of the regulator and is available to parents in the club's brochure should they require it. Records of complaints are accessible for inspection as required.

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):

- advise parents of the storage of lunch boxes with regard to perishable foodstuffs
- ensure hazardous cleaning materials and dangerous objects are inaccessible to children

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk