

# Wise Owls Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY349821
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 April 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Jennifer Getty
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<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Wise Owls Club opened in 2007. It operates from the community rooms at Whitecotes Primary School, Chesterfield. There is a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The out of school club serves the local area and surrounding villages.

The setting opens five days a week from 15:30 until 18:00 and from 08:30 until 18:00 during the school holidays. There are currently 68 children from five to 11 years on roll.

The setting currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The out of school club employs four full-time staff who work with the children. All of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two members of staff are currently working towards a further recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from Derbyshire local authority and are members of 4children.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted because staff and children follow clear hygiene routines. For example, children wash hands at appropriate times in the day and staff ensure areas are kept clean. Food preparation is hygienic and tables are cleaned with anti bacterial spray before children eat. The policy for caring for sick children minimises the spread of infection as children are collected by parents. The setting takes appropriate measures when children are ill or have an accident, thus promoting their health and welfare. Accidents are clearly recorded and children receive stickers for being brave. Although the majority of records are signed by parents this procedure is not consistent which means that children's health is not fully supported. There is always a member of staff present who holds a current first aid qualification and staff receive specific training if required, for example, how to use an epipen.

There are plenty of opportunities for children to develop their physical skills and have fresh air. The setting makes good use of the school play areas which provide space for children to run around and develop their climbing skills. Children enjoy playing badminton, playing football and balancing as they walk along the wooden play area. The quiet area in the main room offers children a calm place to rest, for example, by reading books or talking to friends.

A range of snacks are offered, for example, fruit, pizza fingers, dips and garlic bread. Drinks are available at all times for children to help themselves, and they gain good independence skills as they take responsibilities to help give out snacks. During holidays children bring their own packed lunches which are stored appropriately in the large fridge. Posters with fruit and vegetables are displayed and a healthy eating topic is covered during the year, helping children to learn how to keep themselves healthy.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

The bright and welcoming environment helps children feel comfortable and secure. They are welcomed by friendly staff as they enter and find an activity. The club is able to use two main rooms but generally uses one room which is suitable for the number of children attending. The activities are well spread out so that children have plenty of scope for free movement. There is a wide range of toys and activities that are well presented and suitable for the children's varying ages and stages in development. For example, in one session children are able to choose from playing with the large wooden castle, the dolls house, computers, craft activities, play dough, fuzzy felts, games and building bricks, among others. Resources and equipment is checked for safety and suitability for the ages of the children attending.

The premises is kept secure as doors are locked so that children are unable to leave unsupervised and they are not allowed access to the kitchen. Staff check the outdoor areas for hazards prior to children attending the club and they have supervised play outside, promoting their safety at all times. Risk assessments are carried out daily and staff carry out hourly checks on the attendance of children. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they practise the fire drill and learn about road safety. After school, staff ensure that children are escorted to the room from the school, and on outings there are good safety procedures in place. For example, children wear high visibility clothing and carry identification cards with suitable contact details in case of emergency.

Children are further protected because staff are aware of their role in child protection and are able to put clear procedures into practice when necessary. The majority of staff have attended training and others are booked onto courses. The setting has the relevant government guidelines and have a detailed child protection policy, supporting children's welfare.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the setting. They are involved in a wide range of activities which support their learning and development. They are confident to make decisions and activities are organised which reflect children's interests. For example, they create a Space display and choose to make pictures of aliens, moons and stars. Other displays of children's work include masks, silk painting and drawings. Children respond well to staff who are interested in what they do and say. Play is enhanced and supported through staff's positive interaction with children. Children thoroughly enjoy playing in the toy kitchen, making biscuits from play dough and setting a large table for a party. They smile and chat as they decide what needs to go on the table and what shapes the biscuits should be. The craft table is a busy area and children make posters and collages which they lay out ready to take home. They make masks and bookmarks while others play computer games or pretend to be teachers as they write on the large whiteboard. There are opportunities for messy play as children fill buckets with sand and enjoy feeling the texture of the sand which contains seeds. Planning ensures that resources are rotated and children are able to request further resources. Children are busy during the holiday period with some visits planned during the summer and after school. Children are able to rest or be active according to their needs.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children develop a strong sense of belonging because their work is clearly displayed on the walls and they are able to contribute to the planning. Children receive questionnaires so they can express their views about the club. Their individual needs are met as the setting obtains relevant information about their care, however, there are a small number of records which do not contain full information about the children and the permissions section has not been completed. This seeks parents' permission for situations, such as, obtaining emergency medical treatment, being transported in a vehicle and going on outings. There are some children on roll who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and they are well supported by the club who liaise with the school and parents, ensuring their needs are fully met. Staff receive training when necessary to promote children's welfare.

Children learn about the local and wider community through a range of resources, trips and activities. Their beliefs are respected and children celebrate a number of festivals throughout the year, for example, Chinese New Year, St Patrick's Day, Diwali, Christmas and Easter. Children are well behaved and understand the club rules. They are reminded of appropriate rules at the beginning of the session and they respond well to staff reminders not to run. Appropriate strategies are used which are suitable for the ages of the children attending, such as, explanation and discussion. They receive lots of praise and encouragement and there is a friendly atmosphere as children of all ages play well together.

Parents receive good information about the club before the children start, which includes how the setting is organised and the policies in place. Menus, plans and relevant information is

displayed and the policies and procedures are available each session. The club has responded to parents' questionnaire by producing a newsletter to provide further information for them about the care of the children. Children's welfare and safety is supported because the setting has a detailed complaints policy in place.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Overall children's needs are met. The children are cared for by adults who are vetted and protected from those who are not, thus promoting their safety. There is a good recruitment system in place which ensures that staff are interviewed and police checked, as well as, undergoing a three month trial. The induction procedure ensures that staff are fully aware of policies and procedures. Staff are supported through the appraisal system which identifies strengths and training needs, which effectively promotes the care and learning of all children. Documents are well maintained, although there are a few which are not complete, for example, permissions for activities and accident records. They are organised so they are easily accessible for both the after school sessions and the holiday club. The organisation of time and resources is good so that it supports children in their play. Children are able to access all activities which helps them develop good independence skills and they have plenty of opportunity for outdoor and indoor play. A record is maintained of children's exact times of arrival and departure and staff frequently check the ratios and numbers of children, this promotes their safety and allows staff to plan appropriate activities for the ages and number of children attending.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration 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):

- ensure accident records are consistently signed by parents

- ensure children's documents contain all the relevant information to provide appropriate care, with particular reference to the parental permission form which includes emergency medical treatment, transporting in a vehicle and going on outings.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)