

Home From Home Out Of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY350259
Inspection date	15 April 2008
Inspector	Sheila Harrison
Setting Address	Westfield First School, Durrants Lane, BERKHAMSTED, Hertfordshire, HP4 3PJ
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Registered person	Elizabeth Mary Curtis
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Home from Home Out of School Club registered in 2007. It is one of three privately run settings. The club is based in a classroom at Westfield First School, Durrants Lane, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. Children from other schools in the area also attend the club. Access is available to a fenced outside area and the playing field. The main entrance to the club is at the rear of the school and uses a door bell entry system. There is a kitchen area in the room for food preparation by staff and facilities available for hand washing. Separate cloakrooms are available with one toilet for boys and two toilets for girls. The breakfast club runs from 07.45 until the start of the school day. The after school club runs from the end of the school day until 17.45. Children are transported to and from other local schools in the community by Home from Home vehicles or supervised walking. The setting may care for 26 children aged from three to eight years. There are currently 48 children on roll aged from four to 11 years. There is a total of five staff working with the children and three staff have appropriate early years or playwork qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have many valuable opportunities to play in the fresh air and have sufficient exercise. They freely access the large areas of playground within the premises. This contains exciting and challenging climbing equipment and children enjoy playing with a range of small equipment such as balls and scooters. Staff actively interact with the children outside by turning the skipping rope and playing football. Children report that they enjoy time playing energetic games in the hall during episodes of poor weather.

Children are suitably nourished. They have a varied menu that always includes some fruit. Drinks and snacks are available for children to freely access as they wish. Staff sensitively ensure children attending the breakfast club have something to eat before school.

Children are adequately protected in the case of an accident as most staff have recent first aid training. There are suitable medical details and permission for emergency medical treatment. Children are shielded from infection as they are encouraged to wash their hands before meals and posters are displayed at the children's level to remind them to wash their hands. Staff follow appropriate cleaning routines and hygiene procedures.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and secure environment. They use suitable and safe equipment with sufficient space to move freely. Children greatly enjoy the free access to the outside play areas. The classrooms give them space to move between different activities. For example, there are areas for playing on the floor and various art and craft activities. An adjoining classroom is used for quiet play and homework with access to equipment more suitable to the younger age range. Children's sense of belonging is promoted as there are helpful displays of photographs, the children's artwork and each child has a named peg for their possessions. The resources are appealing to children and appropriate to their age and stage of development. Toys are regularly checked to ensure they are complete and safe.

Children are kept safe as adequate steps are taken to minimize the risks in the premises and on the trip to and from school. Staff undertake daily safety checks and work in partnership with the school by sharing risk assessments on the use of the outside play equipment. There are efficient systems to report any defects to the premises and record visitors. There are secure procedures for the collection of children and staff are vigilant in supervising the children safely. They use walkie-talkies to be in easy contact with the staff outside. Children are learning to keep safe as they regularly practise the emergency evacuation plan and they have readily taken to a new procedure to inform staff when they are in the toilet.

Children are protected from harm as staff have an adequate understanding of child protection procedures. They have sufficient written information and follow suitable recording and reporting policies.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and busy. They are well supported in their play as they benefit from good interactions with staff who have a warm rapport with them. They become engrossed in a wide range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities. Staff support children completing a jigsaw. Children set up their own card games and can build complicated models with interlocking blocks. They reported that they were looking forward to the sewing activity and using the sewing machines.

Children take an active part in the setting. Their opinion is appropriately sought using pictorial questionnaires. Their views inform the planning and the purchasing of new equipment. Children expressed a wish to learn to knit and made small blankets for the dolls cots.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued as the staff know the children's personalities well. They are encouraged to become sensitive and respectful in their interactions with others. Staff encourage children to negotiate and take turns. Children who stay late generously give the first turn of the new virtual reality game to those who are going home early.

Staff develop effective links with parents to ensure individual needs of the children are met. Some of the children have moved from the proprietor's other settings when reaching school age. Parents and children report that they are very happy with the club and many have known the proprietor since the children were babies. This makes a valuable contribution to the continuity of care for the children.

Children are learning about the wider world, they celebrate traditional festivals and acknowledge the festivals important to others. Children benefit from some activities and resources that help them value diversity and show positive images of boys and girls. Staff can demonstrate that children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities will be adequately supported within the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Overall, children's needs are not met. Children's welfare is adversely affected by the registered person's failure to comply with regulations. Details of staff on the premises are not accurately recorded and significant changes to the staff have not been notified to Ofsted. The setting generally undertakes adequate recruitment procedures. However, the system to chase up references in a timely fashion is weak and does not fully ensure staff are completely vetted and suitable to work with children.

Staff work co-operatively as a team and have a secure knowledge and understanding of childcare. Children benefit from their conscientious and positive approach. Staff undertake professional childcare qualifications and attend a range of short courses. Information from these courses is used to improve the opportunities for children to communicate effectively with the staff and make changes to the setting.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that there are effective procedures in place for checking that staff are suitable to work with children
- ensure Ofsted are informed of significant staff changes and registers are effectively maintained.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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