

Happy Families Out Of School Childcare Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY358870
Inspection date	04 June 2008
Inspector	Patricia Dawes
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Registered person	Happy Families Child Care Limited
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?

Happy Families Out of School Childcare Centre registered in 2007 and is run by Happy Families Child Care Limited. It operates from three areas, namely the main hall and two classrooms, in a primary school in Smethwick, West Midlands. A maximum of 48 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 07:45 to 09:00 and 15:25 to 18:00 during school term times. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 20 children aged from three to under eight years on roll. Children up to 11 years also attend. The club serves the children who attend the school and children in the local community if places are available. The group currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and has systems in place to offer support to children who speak English as an additional language.

The group employs four members of staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is appropriately supported in the setting. For example, should a child become ill or sick whilst attending they are well cared for until the parents' earliest arrival. Written consent is obtained from parents for staff to seek emergency medical advice or treatment where necessary and the setting has clear procedures for the administration of prescribed medication. All staff have completed first aid training to help them respond to accidents appropriately. Staff follow effective procedures such as, routinely cleaning food preparation work surfaces and tables with antibacterial spray before and after snack time. Children learn the importance of personal hygiene through planned routines. They know that they have to wash their hands before main snack time, after messy activities and using the toilet. However, staff are not consistent in their approach to remind children to wash their hands before accessing fruit and water after playing outdoors. This has the potential to compromise children's health and well-being.

Children benefit from a healthy diet and are offered a good variety of healthy snacks to promote their understanding of a healthy diet. For example, toast with spaghetti and a selection of fresh fruit such as oranges, apples and pears. Children are able to access readily available fresh drinking water throughout the session. Staff discuss with parents and record details of any specific requirements or allergies to ensure children's dietary needs are met.

All children have good opportunities for physical play and activities indoors and outside. Children who wish to be less active can access a range of less energetic activities, toys and games indoors such as arts and crafts and board games. Most children enjoy active play, especially team games, such as football, basketball, hide and seek, and chasing games such as 'tag'. This ensures a healthy attitude to exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe by a staff team who place a high priority on safety and security in the setting. Risks to children are limited through effective procedures, such as daily visual risk assessments conducted by staff in all areas the children access. A bell on the external door alerts staff parents have arrived and children are aware only staff respond to this. All areas including outdoors are secure and the staff closely supervise children during play sessions to ensure they remain safe. They ensure that visitors to the out of school group are closely monitored, all being required to produce identification which is checked carefully before gaining entry.

Children use a range of developmentally appropriate resources. They play in a safe environment which is well organised and resourced providing lots of choice. Toys, games and equipment are well maintained and presented by staff to enable children to self-select. There is a varied range of resources in the cupboards which is stored at low-level, clearly labelled and easily accessible.

Staff ensure they maintain an accurate daily record of children's and staff attendance and parents sign their children out of the session. Staff consistently remind and explain about safe practices with the children to prevent any accidents, such as sitting correctly on the chairs at snack time. Fire fighting equipment is well maintained and emergency evacuations are practised

regularly. Children take part in activities and discussions regarding stranger danger and road safety. This means that children are gaining a good awareness of how to keep themselves and others safe.

Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and they follow procedures to record existing injuries and report concerns. Ongoing training is encouraged to ensure all staff gain appropriate awareness of child protection issues. The child protection policy is shared with parents and fully complies with the current Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. This ensures children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good variety and range of activities. Staff meet children's individual needs and promote their welfare through providing an interesting and stimulating balance of age-appropriate games, themes and discussions. This is achieved through planning, organisation and effective team work. Children are aware of the routine in the after school club and are able to predict what will happen next. For example, children know after snack time they have access to indoor resources and games, the computer suite or outdoor games. This relaxed routine helps children to be calm, settled and confident.

Staff are forward thinking and adapt most activities to ensure that they are manageable and challenging, however, snack time does not offer children opportunities to develop their independence skills. Children take part in board games, floor games and soft ball games. They visit the computer suite where they access a selection of appropriate children's web sites to play games or complete quizzes. Children enjoy designing road safety posters, science projects making 'gloop' and magnets, or learning outdoor survival skills such as pitching a tent or making a water filter from a sock! This means that children benefit from a good variety of activities to promote all areas of development.

Children are encouraged to be involved and quickly engage in activities. Staff respond well to their interests, ideas and suggestions and very good relationships exist between children and staff. Children are confident to work alone but also delight in the attention and interaction with adults. Consequently children are developing a sense of belonging.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Resources and activities offered are meaningful, stimulating and fun. Children are encouraged to use all resources and imaginative play equipment regardless of their gender. They celebrate their own and different festivals and events through art and craft activities and discussions. For example, designing cards and gifts for Easter. This helps them to develop a sense and awareness of others' similarities and differences. The setting has appropriate systems in place to offer support to children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities or who speak English as an additional language.

Children are well behaved and are rewarded and valued for their contribution to the group. They follow the club's rules and feel secure knowing what they can and cannot do at the setting. They know what is expected of them and are aware of what is right and wrong. Children behave responsibly and share popular resources without being prompted. This means the group is successful in promoting children's self-esteem and confidence.

Partnerships with parents and carers are well established and this ensures continuity of care for children. Policies, procedures and information about the provision are available to parents including an effective complaints procedure should there be a need. Staff meet and greet parents on arrival and there is a two-way flow of information. This ensures children benefit from a trusting and mutually supportive partnership with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The registered body uses effective vetting and induction procedures to ensure staff are suitable to care for children. The staff team have the relevant knowledge and experience of how to promote the care and well-being of children. The registered body is aware of their duty to report any significant events or changes to the regulator and has a strong commitment to provide good quality childcare. This means that children's safety and welfare is effectively promoted in the setting.

Children are able to move freely around the areas used for the out of school club and the outdoor play areas. Space is well utilised to meet the needs of the children and this helps them feel safe, settled and secure. Staff respect children's decisions to join in or opt out of activities. Children are well supported as the staffing ratios are well maintained. Consequently, children have adequate adult support, resources and encouragement to promote their self-esteem and confidence.

Storage of children's records ensures that confidentiality is respected with regard to individual children. Documentation, which is required and contributes to children's health and safety, is in place, reviewed regularly and updated in line with current legislation and guidance.

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

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 good hygiene practices are consistently promoted in order to reduce the risk of cross infection
- improve opportunities for children to develop their independence with regard to snack time.

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