

Happy Hippos After School Club & Hungry Hippos Breakfast Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY359096
Inspection date	07 July 2008
Inspector	Ann Marie Cozzi
Setting Address	Richard Whittington Primary School, Thornbera Gardens, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, Hertfordshire, CM23 3NP
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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?

Happy Hippos After School Club & Hungry Hippos Breakfast Club was registered in 2007. It operates from the main hall in Richard Whittington Primary School in a residential area of Bishop's Stortford. Children have access to a secure outdoor play area.

The club is registered to provide care for a maximum of 24 children from three to under eight years at any one time. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting is open each weekday from 08.00 until 09.00 and then from 15.00 until 18.00 during term time.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

There is practice in place which teaches children about the importance of good health and hygiene, for example, children washing their hands before eating. As a result, the good health of children is protected. The shared children's toilets are cleaned on a regular basis and staff give some gentle reminders to children to wash their hands after using the toilet.

Members of staff have completed relevant first aid training. As a result, children are assured of receiving swift and appropriate care or attention in the event of an accident or illness. There are policies and systems in place for when children become ill and for the administration of medication. This protects others from the spread of infection and ensures that children are kept safe from accidental overdose. Accident records are in place and countersigned by parents or carers.

Children are well nourished as they are provided with a balanced and interesting diet. For example, they tuck into either sandwiches or pasta and enjoy eating fresh fruit such as orange or apple. Fresh drinking water is freely accessible to all children throughout the session. Records are in place regarding children's individual dietary requirements and allergies. Written parental permission enabling staff to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is in place.

All children have some opportunities to engage in physical activities in the main hall or in the garden. There are some resources available to promote their skills, for example, construction bricks, computer games and pencils.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

The provision has some measures in place to ensure that risks to children's safety are minimised. For example, risk assessments and a policy regarding security of the building. However, these are ineffective and as a result children are potentially at risk of injury or harm. Children freely access the activities set up by members of staff, however the use of a section of the main hall for an incompatible range of physical activities such as skipping, football, badminton and basket ball practice places children at further risk of injury.

There are clear written safety procedures in place some of which are applied by staff, for example, a procedure to follow in the event of a fire. There is an adequate range of child-sized furniture and equipment enabling children to access some play opportunities.

Staff have attended child protection training. They demonstrate a sound understanding of their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice should the situation arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is inadequate.

Some children appear confident, however, there are limited opportunities for them to respond to new challenges by questioning and using their own initiative. Although some children have their individual needs met and are developing a good range of knowledge and skills. The limited range of resources available, do not provide sufficient activities and play opportunities which help children achieve in all areas. Children are not beginning to distinguish right from wrong and form positive relationships, this is because staff do not set consistent boundaries in order to support children appropriately to develop these skills.

The care of children under 8 years is adversely affected by the care of children over 8 years. This is because high priority is given to physical activities for children over 8 years in particular the boys. These children also often dominate the computer area. Whilst children under 8 years predominantly access a small floor play area and table top activities such as colouring. For example, a range of physical activities are used by children at the same time. As a consequence,

they spend most of their time running around the room playing football, badminton and throwing a ball in the basket ball hoop. This results in limited space for younger children, a high noise level and the risk of accidents occurring.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children do not have sufficient access to resources which support their independent learning about diversity. Although staff encourage some understanding of different faiths or cultures this is very limited. Resources which depict positive images are inadequate and therefore do not form an integral part of children's play and learning experiences. Whilst children are able to make some choices and decisions about their play from what is accessible, play opportunities are in the main organised for them by members of staff.

There are currently no children on roll with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. However the setting does have systems in place to ensure that children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are supported.

Some children are developing positive relationships with staff and other children, however, as a result of inappropriate and inconsistent staff intervention children become disruptive, loud and disrespectful to each other and staff. Good behaviour is not encouraged or supported consistently in order that children develop an understanding of what effect their behaviour has on others or learn to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. For example, children who were being disruptive during meal time were not challenged appropriately by staff. This resulted in encouraging other children to join in.

Parents and carers provide full details about their children at the time of placement. They receive informal verbal feedback each day from staff and are asked to complete a questionnaire about the service they receive. There is an appropriate complaints policy in place.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The management of care does not effectively take account of the overall safety, welfare and development of children. The manager and deputy of the setting have undergone all appropriate suitability checks. However, due to the lack of records available for inspection the suitability of other staff is not determined.

The system for recording the attendance of children relies on parents to sign their children out of the group. This is not effective and as a result, there is an inconsistency in the recording of children's departure times and as a result, children may be unaccounted for, therefore compromising their safety.

The poor organisation of resources has a negative impact on the care of children under 8 years, in addition it does not effectively address their interests and individual needs, as a result children are not provided with a range of activities which promotes their learning in all areas.

There are opportunities for staff training, for example, some staff have recently undertaken safeguarding children and early years foundation training. There are contingency arrangements in place to cover staff absence, for example, sickness and annual leave.

Improvements since the last inspection

not applicable first inspection.

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:

- take positive steps to promote safety within the setting and ensure precautions are taken to prevent accidents; this is with regard to risk assessment of all areas of the premises accessed by children, security of the premises and outside play area, staff knowledge and understanding of health and safety requirements
- ensure that children's individual needs are met and promote their welfare. Plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities
- ensure that the registered person and staff actively encourage equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice; this refers to staff knowledge and understanding of current legislation, access to resources which reflect diversity
- ensure that all adults caring for children are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development
- ensure that the registered person organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively this refers to; any care provided for children aged 8 to 14 does not adversely affect the care provided for children under 8 years, a system for registering children's attendance on a daily basis, showing hours of attendance
- ensure records are always available for inspection by the early years care inspector.

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