

The Afterschool Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	218367
Inspection date	25 April 2008
Inspector	Shirley Amanda Wilkes

Setting Address	Bishop Lonsdale Primary School, Eccleshall, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST21 6AU
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Registered person	Leslie James Byatt
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?

The After School Club is privately owned and opened in 1997. It operates from a classroom located within Bishop Lonsdale Primary School. The setting has use of one classroom and toilet facilities. There is an enclosed playground for outside play. The setting serves the local community.

There are currently 38 children on roll. The setting is open each weekday during term-time. Sessions are from 07:45 to 09:00 and 15:30 to 17:50. Children are able to attend for a variety of sessions.

There are currently two members of staff working with the children. Of these, one is qualified to level three.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, welcoming environment, where they learn the importance of simple good health and hygiene practices through daily routines. They understand, for example, the need to wash hands before eating and after toileting to remove germs. All documentation which supports children's health is in place, for example, accidents are recorded and parents sign to acknowledge any entries. It is policy of the setting that medicines are not administered to children. However, there are arrangements in place that are followed if children have long-term medication needs such as inhalers for asthma. One member of staff has a current first aid certificate which means children are protected if there was an accident. Children's dietary needs are well met in partnership with parents. All needs are fully discussed, recorded and all staff are fully aware of children's individual needs. Snacks provided offer healthy choices to the children that include fruit, sandwiches, toast and low-sugar drinks. Children are able to access drinks freely and independently throughout the session. This helps children develop a positive attitude to healthy eating.

Children have opportunities to take part in a good range of physical activities. Children enjoy a balanced range of activities indoors and outdoors. They take part in physical activities using the playground and playing fields attached to the school. Children enjoy playing with the balls, skipping ropes and joining in organised games. This encourages the children to develop control of their bodies and contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure, familiar environment, as all of the children attend the school. Indoor space and activities are set out in a safe and attractive way. Children are able to freely and easily access a range of good quality equipment, which is appropriate to their differing abilities and interests. Staff monitor and clean equipment to ensure it meets safety requirements. Colourful displays of children's artwork in the room are evidence that children enjoy their time at the club.

The systems in place for the arrival and the collection of children at the end of a session are effective to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded. Children's well-being and their understanding of keeping themselves safe is well promoted, for example, when playing outdoors they know the rules and boundaries set. Fire evacuation procedures are effective and practised on a regular basis to ensure that children are protected in the event of an emergency.

Staff have a clear understanding of child protection issues and the correct procedures to follow for reporting concerns. The policy and procedures contain up-to-date contact details for the Local Safeguarding Children Board. As a result of this children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the club and are eager to join in the broad range of organised activities. They are able to relax and develop friendships because staff are welcoming, attentive and encouraging, motivating the children to focus on play and having fun. Children's

self-esteem is nurtured by the staff who acknowledge their completed art work and by them being able to carry over work to be completed at their next session. However, not all children are encouraged to be independent and responsible for themselves, for example, serving themselves at snack time and pouring their own drinks. Children are developing a good understanding about what is right and wrong because staff are positive role models who work well as a team. They listen to children, value what they have to say and respond positively to their questions and join in their play, for example, during construction and role play. This promotes children's communication skills well. All children enjoy regular outside play in the large playground and grassed area where they are able to play football and join in various organised games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are recognised as individuals and their self-esteem is well promoted by the staff offering lots of praise and encouragement. Children play together, showing concern for others, taking turns and sharing equipment. They are developing a sense of belonging and are well behaved. Children are developing a good understanding of the wider world and its diversity through play resources and activities which reflect positive images. There are no children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, or children who speak English as an additional language currently attending. However, the staff are able to demonstrate they would ensure they have equal access alongside their peers to the facilities, activities and play opportunities to promote their welfare.

Good relationships with parents are well promoted. They are able to access information about how the club is run and details of what the club has to offer from information displayed on the notice board. There is an open door policy and staff are available to speak to parents daily about how the children have spent their time, which ensures the needs of the children are well met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

All policies and procedures are in place to promote the well-being of the children. Staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. There are effective recruitment, vetting and induction procedures in place to ensure staff are aware of the operational policies within the club. The procedures to ensure the continued suitability of the staff are in place and ensure staff inform the manager of significant changes which may affect their suitability to care for children.

Staff organise space well to promote children's self-confidence and help them operate independently in the environment. Resources are organised to enable children to access their preferred activities, giving them ownership of the group.

Registration procedures are effective to ensure that all children are accounted for in order to keep them safe. The use of staff time is good ensuring children's health, safety and enjoyment of the out of school group. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was required to, request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment; make sure enough staff are trained in first aid to ensure that at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate is on the premises at any one time and to keep a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken. Written permission from parents is now in place for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. One member of staff has completed first aid training with the manager due to attend shortly to ensure a qualified staff member is on site at all times. A complaints log is now maintained and available for parents.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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):

- provide all children with the opportunity to develop their independence at 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