

Phoenix Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY348563
Inspection date	11 June 2008
Inspector	Lindsey Pollock
Setting Address	St Aiden's Church, Hipswell Road West, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3BH
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Registered person	Catterick Garrison Pre-School Group
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?

Phoenix Out of School Club is run by Catterick Garrison Pre-School Group with a manager employed to take responsibility for the daily running of the group. It is located in purpose built premises close to the centre of Catterick Garrison. The accommodation consists of a large and small room for the children, toilets, a fully fitted kitchen and an office. There is an enclosed outdoor play area with grass and a paved surface.

The club is registered for 26 children aged from four to under eight years. Places are also provided for children over the age of eight years. The club serves children from the local community and offers a school collection service from schools in the local area. Care is offered for children with learning difficulties and disabilities, as well as children with English as an additional language. There are currently 45 children on roll between the ages of four and 12 years.

There are five members of staff working with the children, all of whom are experienced and hold relevant childcare qualifications. Opening times are from 15.00 to 18.00 from Monday to Friday during term time and from 08.00 to 18.00 in the school holidays. The group is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Good standards of cleanliness are maintained in the facility. Contract cleaners are employed and staff are vigilant throughout sessions. This ensures that children are cared for in a hygienic environment to help keep them healthy. Children are gaining a good understanding of how to keep themselves healthy; they wash their hands without prompting and explain how anti-bacterial soap stops them from having germs on their hands which may cause them to be poorly. Requirements regarding first aid training, accidents and medication recording are fully met to promote children's welfare. Good provision is made for physical play. Activities are provided outdoors whenever possible so that children can benefit from the fresh air and an open door policy allows children to choose if they want to be inside or in the garden. They are developing a positive attitude to exercise as they participate in various sports and physical activities, such as football, twister, dancing and rough and tumble activities.

Children are well nourished. They are offered a variety of snacks and regularly enjoy fresh fruit. Menus are varied to encourage children to try different healthy foods, such as pasta and vegetable stir-fry. They are beginning to be aware of the importance of eating nutritious foods to maintain a healthy lifestyle through participating in activities, such as making fruit smoothies, vegetable soup and fresh fruit crumble. Good provision is made to ensure children are not thirsty. They are given regular drinks and are confident to help themselves to water throughout the session. Detailed information is obtained from parents regarding special dietary and health requirements and is recorded for reference.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Staff work hard to make the environment welcoming. There are designated areas furnished with comfortable furniture where children can relax and unwind after school. Toys and resources are plentiful. They are in good condition and are easily accessible to children so that they can make their own choices.

Staff place great emphasis on keeping children safe. Written risk assessments are completed and staff continually check that all areas, resources and equipment are safe. Doors are secure to prevent unauthorised admittance or children leaving unattended. Although staff are confident that they can evacuate the premises quickly and safely should an emergency occur, practises are not sufficiently frequent to ensure new children are fully aware of what to do. Children are learning successfully to keep themselves safe and avoid accidental injury. Staff reinforce the importance of safe practice, such as not running in the rooms and using equipment, such as scissors and cooking implements sensibly.

Children are well protected. Staff have a good understanding of how to protect children and recognise that this is their first priority. They are vigilant, aware of the signs and symptoms of possible abuse and know the appropriate procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children speak very highly of the club. They enjoy the many activities on offer and relate very well to the staff caring for them. They are clearly happy to be at the provision and are fully occupied during their time there. Warm relationships are evident between the staff and the children and also between the children themselves. Staff are interested in what the children do and say, and give positive encouragement to them. This helps children to feel good about themselves and contributes to their sense of belonging.

Children are involved in the planning of activities. Their interests are taken into account and a wide range of set activities are on offer at each session. For example, children are fully engaged as they make clay pots, copy artists work with impressive results, make necklaces and sew using real needles. Children are also able to choose freely from the many resources available to them. The staff have a good understanding of child development and ensure activities support this. They evaluate each activity so they can plan for children's learning and development. They also fully appreciate that this is a time for children to relax and have fun after a busy day at school. Comfortable seats are available and also a quiet area where children can choose from the good range of books and sit quietly. They love being outside; running around, playing sport and enjoying the fresh air. They use their imagination particularly well in this area as they build dens and play with big cardboard boxes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the club. They have a strong sense of belonging and they are very proud of the provision and their achievements there. Their views are sought and respected through involving them in the planning and asking them to contribute with ideas for activities. They produce the 'Phoenix Flyer' to celebrate their achievements and keep everyone informed about what is happening in their club. Staff ensure that all children can take part in activities if they wish, so that the club is inclusive and welcoming to children. Their individuality is valued and respected and individual needs are sensitively met. Resources and activities which promote children's awareness of diversity are made available. For example, they celebrate occasions, such as Chinese New Year when they cook different foods.

Children are very well behaved and have good manners; rarely forgetting to say please and thank you. Staff act as good role models and manage behaviour well, promoting children's self-esteem and confidence by giving appropriate and sincere praise and encouragement. The children relate well to each other and happily share and take turns when playing games. They are clear about the club rules including 'doing what you are asked to do' and 'helping to tidy up'.

Staff develop good partnerships with parents. Relationships are relaxed and comfortable, helping children to feel secure. Parents' views and wishes about their child's needs are sought and also about the running of the club. An informative noticeboard keeps them up to date with what is happening and information is available about how to contact Ofsted.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The club is well run by experienced and qualified staff who are enthusiastic about their work. Rigorous and robust recruitment procedures are in place to ensure staff are suitable, and systems are in place to ensure they remain so during their employment in the club. Induction procedures and opportunities to receive further training help staff to develop their skills and contribute to a provision that meets children's needs well. Staff are deployed appropriately and use their time well to support children and give them good attention. Ratios are well met, however, an accurate record of the times that children are cared for is not fully maintained. Effective links with the school help to ensure children's well-being is promoted.

Documentation is used effectively to support the care of the children and to comply with regulations. Written policies and procedures are in place for the safe and efficient management of the club. These are detailed and a true representation of the provision's practices and procedures with the exception of the safeguarding children policy which does not clearly state the steps that would be taken should an allegation be made against a member of staff. Records are clear, up to date, easily accessible to appropriate people and stored securely.

Overall, 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):

- practise the emergency evacuation procedures on a more frequent basis
- ensure the written safeguarding policy reflects the procedure to be followed should an allegation be made against a member of staff

- ensure fully accurate records are kept of children's attendance.

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