

The Fun Zone @ Carlton Primary School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY355942
Inspection date	21 May 2008
Inspector	Linda Filewood
Setting Address	Carlton Primary School, New Road, Carlton, WAKEFIELD, West Yorkshire, WF3 3RE
Telephone number	0113 282 5228
E-mail	
Registered person	The Fun Zone
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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 Fun Zone @ Carlton Primary School is one of a chain of privately owned provisions that provides out of school care. It opened in 2007 and operates from an annexed building within the grounds of Carlton Primary School, Carlton, West Yorkshire. The facility is open each weekday from 07.30 to 08.50 and from 15.00 to 18.00 during term time and from 07.30 to 18.00 during school holidays. A maximum of 20 children may attend the club at any one time. Children have access to the school fields and the club also has its own secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 35 children aged from four to 11 years on roll. Children only attend from Carlton Primary School during term time and from the wider community during the school holidays.

The provision employs five staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications and three are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because staff follow clear procedures, such as wiping down tables before children use them. When preparing meals, they follow good procedures that promote good food hygiene and have food hygiene qualifications. There is a clear sickness policy in place, which helps to prevent the spread of infection and ensures appropriate measures are taken if children become ill. Written permission is obtained from parents allowing staff to seek emergency advice and treatment, if necessary. Medication is not usually given, but staff have a clear understanding of the system in place that ensures medication is administered safely. Staff implement a good recording system regarding accidents, which includes parents receiving a written copy of the record. Details of accident that have occurred in school are passed onto parents. This ensures that consistency in children's care is upheld well.

Children are developing an awareness and understanding of simple good health and hygiene practice. They follow familiar routines, such as washing hands before meals, and enjoy taking responsibility for designated tasks at mealtimes. Staff generally prepare the food, although children attending the holiday club make their own packed lunches. A variety of nutritious snacks and light meals is offered to the children. A bowl of fruit and a jug of water are always available for them during the sessions. Staff encourage the children to learn about healthy eating through discussion and the good use of charts and posters.

Children have good opportunity to develop their physical skills. They have very easy access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area where they play with equipment, such as skittles, large tyres, bats and balls. The school also allows children to use their playing fields, which offers children a range of larger equipment to extend their physical development. When the weather is bad, a variety of indoor activities is planned and children enjoy equipment such as table football. Staff have created comfortable areas within the club for children to rest after school if they wish.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, well-maintained environment which is separate from the main school building. The club's equipment and furniture are effectively organised to enable children to move around freely and safely within the provision. Children independently access a good variety of well maintained, good quality toys and play equipment, which promotes self-selection and choice.

Children are kept safe in the setting as staff are aware of potential hazards and take positive steps to ensure children are kept free from harm. For example, they use a well-designed tick list to make sure all areas of the provision are checked prior to the children using the club. The outside door is locked when the session is in progress and visitors use a buzzer, which monitors access. Children are well supported by staff in developing a good understanding about keeping themselves safe. They regularly practise well-logged emergency evacuations, especially after a new child starts. Staff remind children about the dangers of, for example, not finishing the food in their mouth before getting up to play. Children are safely collected from school and wear high visibility jackets and wrist bands, containing the setting's contact number, when on outings or walks.

Children are well protected from possible abuse or neglect. A child protection policy is in place and is shared with parents. However, some details in the policy are not up to date to reflect the changes of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. All staff are aware of the procedure to follow with any concerns and access training to further enhance their knowledge on child protection issues. An effective system is in place for the safe collection of children and this is noted on their records.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and well engaged in the good variety of enjoyable activities and resources, which contribute well to their development. They settle quickly on entry and chatter happily with their friends and staff. Activities which are based around topic work, such as recycling or castles, are developed to cater for the whole age range and encourage the children's imagination. These are well planned and are attractively displayed, showing that the children's work is fully appreciated. Children's opinion is highly valued. They are involved in some of the planning, especially for the holiday club, and a suggestion box is available for children to put their ideas in. Defined areas are created for children within the setting which give them comfortable and independent access to a wide range of play opportunities. Children have space to leave toys out whilst they are at school so that they can continue with their play on their return. This significantly enhances the children's sense of belonging.

The children are full of confidence and happily play cooperatively together, including staff readily in their games. All staff relate very well to the children, offering consistent support and good encouragement, which raises the children's self-esteem and confidence. They extend the children's play through good questioning techniques, which encourage children's conversational skills and extend their learning. Plenty of opportunities are provided for children to enjoy creative activities; resources are plentiful and easily accessible. Children make decisions in their play and enjoy being able to move freely between indoors and outdoors on fine evenings after school.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing a very good understanding of responsible behaviour. They behave very well, play well together and work harmoniously within groups. For example, a rota is in place and they all have a small 'job' to do within the setting, such as setting the table for the meal. Children are encouraged to be independent, to make choices and to take decisions. Staff also support children in their understanding of acceptable behaviour by encouraging them to devise the 'house rules' to be upheld within the setting. As a result, children are fully aware and comply with these rules, which are attractively displayed.

Children are gaining an appropriate understanding of the diversity of the wider world. Staff offer a good selection of resources, activities and discussions that promote positive images and understanding. For example, children participate in tasting Chinese and Indian food and learn what it is like to use crutches. Posters are displayed that encourage their understanding of different languages and festivals. Topics planned for the holiday club about communication introduce children to ways of communicating other than using the spoken word.

Professional and friendly relationships are in place with parents and the school. The staff gather good information from parents and respect their wishes, which ensures that children's individual needs are successfully met. Plenty of information on the setting and the care offered is shared with parents using a variety of methods. For instance, a noticeboard displays the daily menu and activities, the school newsletter includes details of the club and a file of policies and procedures is always available to parents. However, the complaints procedure does not clearly inform parents of Ofsted's role in the procedure, should they have a concern. Good conversations between staff and parents when children are taken to or collected from the setting help to ensure continuity and consistency in their overall care. Parents and staff of the school are very happy with the care offered to the children attending the facility.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from caring staff, who consistently interact with them, giving effective help and encouragement. Staffing levels are appropriately maintained and staff are well supported in gaining appropriate early years qualifications. Staff show good commitment to updating knowledge and developing skills to benefit the children, through the completion of relevant training. Regular appraisals take place, which help to identify any further training needs. Children are well protected and supervised at all times. Clear vetting procedures are carried out on all staff to ensure they are suitable to work with children. Staff organise the session successfully, so that children have choices in their play and benefit from the easily accessible resources.

The policies and procedures in place generally contribute well to the efficient and safe management of the service provided. Records are well documented and easily accessible when required and confidentiality is maintained. This fully supports the safety and well-being of the children. 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):

- review the current child protection policy and ensure that it complies with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's policies and procedures
- ensure parents are informed of Ofsted's role in the complaints procedure.

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