

The Parachute Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY355950
Inspection date	29 April 2008
Inspector	Anne Mort
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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Parachute Club out of school care is privately owned and moved to its current premises in 2007. The facility is in Westhoughton, near to Bolton. It operates from the school hall and community room of a primary school. A maximum of 30 children may attend the club at any one time. There are currently 67 children on roll. All children share access to a secure enclosed outside play area. The club is open each week day from 07.30 to 09.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00 during term time. The club is also open in school holidays from 07.30 to 18.00, with the exception of Christmas week. The provider employs five members of staff, of whom four hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is working towards an appropriate qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The rooms in use by children are clean and well maintained. Consideration is given to cleanliness and children practise good hygiene habits and wash their hands before their tea. However, their self care is not fully promoted as, after use by the children, some toilets are not flushed

and the toilet facility has paper towel litter on the floor, on a wash basin and in the drinking fountains.

Children have opportunity to develop their physical ability. There is a range of resources to promote physical development. These enable children to develop small and large muscle control. For instance, indoors, children use glue, pencils and colouring pens. Outside, they enjoy the use of bats and balls and staff join in to establish team games of ball throwing and football.

Children's health in other areas is supported as staff have had first aid training and recording of accidents is taking place. Reasonable steps are taken in the matters of food preparation and delivery. Some staff hold a food hygiene certificate. Medicine administration is taking place but records reveal that not all parents are asked to give prior written permission before a medicine is given. This is a breach in regulations.

Children understand what constitutes healthy eating as the staff talk to them about this and there are displays about what is healthy food. However, the choice after the hot dog sausages and bread is chocolate cake or biscuits. Children do not have ready access to self-serve a drink but their needs are supported with drinks at tea time and an offer of an additional drink later in the session. Staff present tea time as a chatty sociable occasion. Children choose their place at the table and friends sit together.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is supported. On the whole they have a safe environment in which to play as risks are minimised due to the diligence of the staff. However, a hazard has been identified that causes a risk to children. The kitchen area is open to the room in which children play. As a result, children are able to go near electrical equipment, for instance, a child walked over to the electric toaster to inform staff the toast was ready. Written risk assessments of the premises are carried out with control measures noted. Staff present the physical layout of the resources in the hall with care, to ensure an uncluttered floor and clear walking space near doorways. This allows children to play independently and explore the activities on offer.

Children are at ease in the environment and move freely and with confidence. This is due to the staff's constant but not overwhelming supervision. Staff monitor the presentation of play materials to make sure they are interesting and support children's developing skills. Children are given complete free choice whether to be busy or quiet and select from a range of interesting resources that include a pool table, table hockey, a tools station, home play area, a dolls' house and shared games.

Staff keep children safe in their care and there is a daily registration system for staff and children on the premises. Staff allow persons known to them into the provision to collect their child at the end of the session. Parents then sign them out or staff sign the register to note a child has left their care. Children have knowledge and experience of the emergency evacuation procedure for the club. Written records show fire drills are carried out.

Children's welfare is given due consideration by the procedures in place and documents held about child protection. The manager has a good level of awareness of her role in child protection issues. She ensures all staff are made aware of their role and of the policies and procedures in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Staff present and effect a friendly, supportive atmosphere for the children. Children are confident and settle very well in the provision. They are completely at ease and relate well to the staff and to each other. They are enthusiastic and make their own decisions whether to play alone, with a friend or in a small group. There is ample opportunity for children to develop social and physical skills both indoors and in outside play.

Children freely select an activity and often invite other children to join them, for instance, two children spent time at leisure sharing a story book. Children rapidly develop their concentration span, artistic ability and handling skills. They use resources for a purpose and enjoy using the creativity materials to make a book mark. Children share imaginary play in the home play area and when using the tools station.

Children rapidly develop their language skills and are confident speakers. This is because staff use age appropriate conversation, ask questions and listen to the children's response. Their input is valued and they have a sense of belonging. Staff promote the children's independence by offering varying levels of support. Children are motivated and interested due to the commitment of the staff who spend time talking to them and joining in their play.

Children spend their time purposefully and thoroughly enjoy exploring a range of interesting play materials. They spend their time purposely or at leisure, thoroughly enjoying their time with each other and with the staff.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's needs are very well met as they take part in a care routine agreed between staff at the provision and their parents. All children are welcome in the provision and the manager and staff are aware how to provide for inclusion where a child has a specific need. There are resources that reflect positive images of diversity. These include informative books with titles, such as 'Being Special' and 'Feelings'. Staff are good role models and are committed to the children and treat each child with respect. They take the time to listen to children's conversation and answer any queries.

Staff work in a calm, friendly and consistent manner. As a result, children are very well behaved. They are supported and supervised by staff and choose where to play. This develops their independence and they choose to engage in activities that interest them, for example, playing with the garage and cars, using the games console, making book marks and reading.

Children's care and well-being is supported. Parents note on documentation all relevant details about their child to enable appropriate care to be given. There are arrangements in place for staff to exchange information about a child and the day's events when the child is collected. Partnership with parents is enhanced by the staff's friendly approach, the information made available to parents and the notice board that illustrates the running and routine of the club, including policies and procedures. Parents speak highly about the facility and are aware of the policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare and all round development is supported. Children are secure and at ease in the organised play environment. Staff are aware to keep children safe from persons who have not undertaken a vetting procedure. Staff records are held to illustrate their job role and suitability. However, in discussion some members of staff are unsure who would be in overall charge in the absence of the manager as there is no named deputy. Further discussion with the manager reveals that two members of staff informally share this role.

Children play in tidy, uncluttered rooms that lead to an enclosed outdoor play area. These areas give space for free movement and exploration. Children's needs are met as staff manage their time effectively.

Documentation is held in line with the National Standards for out of school care and used to promote the welfare of children. Information held relates to the planning and delivery of the out of school care service. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable, this is the 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 satisfactory. 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):

- obtain prior written parental permission before the administration of any medicine by a member of staff
- promote children's self-care skills
- take steps to ensure that children do not access the kitchen area
- establish a named deputy who is able to take charge in the absence of the manager.

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