

Child Seasons Out of School and Holiday Care.

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY356848
Inspection date	17 June 2008
Inspector	Linda Filewood
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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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Child Seasons Out of School and Holiday Care opened in 2007 and is privately owned. The out of school club operates from one room within Holy Rosary and St. Annes Catholic Primary School, Chapeltown, Leeds and children also have use of the school hall. A maximum of 22 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The out of school facility is open from 08.00 to 09.00 before school, from 15.00 to 18.00 after school and from 08.00 to 18.00 during school holidays. All children share access to the school playground.

There are currently 20 children aged from five to eight years on roll. The provision welcomes children with learning difficulties, disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The setting employs five staff. Including the manager, three of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because staff follow clear health and hygiene guidelines, policies and procedures. For example, they cover their hair and wash their hands prior to preparing and serving food. Children are independent in their self-care skills and familiar with routines regarding hygiene, such as washing their hands before they eat their snack. There are several staff employed with current first aid certificates, which means there is always someone on hand to attend to minor accidents and emergencies. However, not all entries in the accident records are countersigned as acknowledgement by a parent or guardian. Medication is not usually administered. A medication policy is in place, but staff are unclear in their understanding that parental permission should be obtained before administering any medication, including inhalers.

Drinks are readily available to the children at all times. A variety of attractively presented, nutritious snacks, including sliced vegetables and fruit, are offered to the children after school. A more substantial, suitably healthy, varied choice of food is provided during the school holidays. Children understand that fruit and vegetables are good for them and suggest food that should be included on the menu. Staff obtain and record appropriate information from parents about special dietary requirements to ensure that children's individual needs are suitably catered for.

Children have the opportunity for physical exercise, using a good variety of equipment, after school and during the school holidays. They access a well enclosed school play area and, in winter or when the weather is bad, the provision has use of the school hall for most of the session. These arrangements provide children with a satisfactory variety of physical activity where they are able to enjoy exercise safely.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children benefit from facilities which are well maintained and welcoming. Good displays of the children's artwork show that staff value their creativity and imagination. Children play in a safe environment as good safety measures are in place. For example, there is a secure entry system to the club and visitors are asked to sign in. The children are well supported in developing a good awareness of safety. They practise regular emergency evacuations and care is taken to prevent accidents when baking. Good staffing ratios are in place, and as a result, the children are well supervised at all times. There are clear procedures for checking the safety of the premises, the outside areas and places children visit during outings. Children are kept safe on outings and when being taken to and from another school. For instance, they use appropriate car seats when travelling by car. Photographs and descriptions of the children and what they are wearing are taken on every outing in case of emergency.

There is a broad range of safe, good quality toys and play materials available. This includes a wide collection of creative resources and physical play equipment. Resources are organised appropriately so that children can easily access a variety of activities, including space for rest and relaxation. Staff manage the space generally well to accommodate the needs of children of different ages.

Staff have a good understanding of the procedure to follow with any concerns they might have about a child's welfare. They are aware of the signs to look for and know the correct action to

take. As a result, the children are well protected from possible abuse or neglect and parents are informed of the provider's duty to care for their children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Friendly relationships are in place between the staff and children, which ensures that children feel safe and secure in their care. Staff interact well with the children and respond to them in a very positive manner. They spend a balanced time talking and listening to them, joining in games when asked. Children are offered good support, enabling them to fully enjoy their self-chosen activities. They are confident in asking for help, for example, in asking a member of staff for assistance in a game. The club is well resourced with toys and games appropriate for the whole age group and activities take into account the children's differing ages and abilities. For example, younger children play with cars and a garage whilst older ones play a descriptive board game.

Children enjoy a good range of activities in a relaxed environment and they engage well in these as soon as they enter the facility. Very positive relationships have developed between the children and they play together in harmony, with older children often helping the younger ones. Children's views are valued by the staff and they are constantly consulted about what activities they would like to do. The staff set up the room with a good variety of resources, but activities are child-led with a clear emphasis on play, relaxation and enjoyment. A good range of outings, often using public transport, are undertaken, for example, to the cinema or local parks during the holiday club.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn appropriately about the world around them through a satisfactory range of resources and planned activities. For example, they celebrate cultures other than their own and visitors come into the setting to raise the children's awareness of differing abilities. Children play together well and staff support their individual needs appropriately. Children with extra care requirements, including those for whom English is an additional language, are well supported. Staff work closely with parents and other professionals to meet children's individual needs and take action to ensure they are fully included, providing additional adult support where necessary. For instance, a notebook is passed between all the child's carers for them to record any relevant details and this provides good support and continuity in their care.

The children are well settled in their environment and behaviour is good. Staff help children manage their own behaviour by ensuring they understand expectations for good behaviour and offering clear guidance and support. For example, they remind the children not to talk above everyone else and to wait while others are speaking. The staff reward positive behaviour with praise and encouragement. Children are involved in setting the behaviour rules of the club and as a result, they understand what is expected of them.

Relationships with parents and other carers are good and they work well together contributing significantly to the continuity of the children's care. Parents receive information about the childcare and their children's activities in a variety of ways. A noticeboard at the entrance to the provision displays photographs and names of the staff, as well as a variety of relevant information. The provision works well with the school. For instance, the child's teacher passes

on information, such as accidents or sickness to the club's staff and the facility is included in the school newsletter. Parents have informal discussions with staff about their children and access plans of the week's activities, policies and procedures. They are happy with the care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children enjoy the time they spend in the setting, which provides a welcoming environment with sufficient space for children to play and have fun. They participate in a balanced range of activities that motivate them and sustain their interest. Children receive good levels of adult attention and staff interact well with them, offering effective help and encouragement. Most staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and attend other relevant training, such as food hygiene, child protection and first aid. Clear vetting procedures are carried out on all staff and an effective induction procedure helps them understand their roles and responsibilities.

Most policies and procedures are in place and contribute to the efficient and safe management of the service provided. These are shared with staff and parents to help promote a consistent approach. Some policies, however, such as the child protection policy, are not individual to the setting. Records are suitably organised and maintained so that staff are able to access information readily. Confidentiality is generally suitably maintained, but some information required by staff, regarding allergies and medical requirements, is openly displayed. Ratios are satisfactorily adhered to. The provider limits the number of children over the age of eight who attend the facility, so that the care of the under eights is not adversely affected. 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):

- ensure that all entries in the accident records are countersigned, as acknowledgement by a parent or guardian
- ensure adequate arrangements for the administration of all medication, by obtaining parents' permission beforehand
- review policies and procedures to ensure they are individual to the setting
- ensure confidentiality of children's information, especially with regards to allergies and medical requirements.

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