

# Ducklings @ Christchurch

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY356994           |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 30 June 2008       |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Jean Evelyn Thomas |

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|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Setting Address</b>    | Christ Church C of E Primary School, Upton Road, WIRRAL, Merseyside, CH46 0PB |
| <b>Telephone number</b>   | 0151 678 5050   |
| <b>E-mail</b>             | neil@ducklingsdaynursery.com  |
| <b>Registered person</b>  | Ducklings Day Nursery   |
| <b>Type of inspection</b> | Childcare   |
| <b>Type of care</b>       | 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](http://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?

Ducklings @ Christchurch Out of School was registered in 2007 and is run by a private partnership. It operates from Christchurch Church of England Primary School, which is situated in the centre of Moreton and caters for children that attend the school. The service provides before and after school care and holiday care. Sessions run from 07.30 to 09.00 before school, 15.30 to 18.00 after school, and 07.00 to 18.00 during holidays from Monday to Friday. A maximum of 36 children aged from four to eight years may attend the provision at any one time. Older children attend. There are currently 30 children on roll. The service supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The out of school club employs five members of staff to work with the children. Of these, three hold appropriate early years and playwork qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health within the setting is supported by staff that have a sound knowledge of health and hygiene procedures. Staff put into practice their food hygiene training when involved in the preparation and serving of the breakfast and the snack. Children follow basic hand washing procedures before eating and after messy play activities. The hand washing facilities within the toilets provide children with products, soap dispensers and paper towels, to wash their hands thoroughly to help stop germs spreading. There is always a qualified first aider on duty to attend to children's needs in the event of an accident. However, written permission has not been obtained from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for children's welfare.

Children increase their understanding of nutritional foods as they select breakfast and after school snacks from a range of healthy options, such as low sugar cereals, wholemeal batches with tuna filling, salads and a selection of fruits. The plate of fruit is available to the children throughout the session. Children respond to their bodily needs and drink when thirsty. They help themselves to easily accessible drinking water which is positioned both indoors and outside. Staff ensure children are not offered foods which may trigger an allergic reaction through using the documented information given by parents.

The children enjoy participating in a range of indoor and outdoor physical activities. They benefit from the use different areas on the school site, which offer a wide range of large apparatus, to engage in physical play. Children gain confidence and test out their coordination as they use new equipment, such as the roller boards. Children have the opportunity to relax in the quiet corner on large floor cushions. Children use this area to read books and sit and talk to staff and friends.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and secure environment. The play resources are set out before the children arrive. Children are involved in a good balance of activities using equipment and resources that contributes to their enjoyment and sustains their interest. There is ample space available for both energetic play and quiet activities. For example, children use the clear floor space to build the designs with construction kits to their satisfaction without interruption from children involved in other activities.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure setting. Their safety is protected as there are clear systems in place for their safe arrival and departure. Staff vigilantly monitor the security device fitted to the entrance gate to ensure children do not leave the premises unsupervised. Staff minimise hazards through the completion of a daily risk assessment before the morning and afternoon sessions commence. This means children are able to move around safely. The staff maintain a good level of supervision. Due to the location of the toilets children are escorted by staff to use these facilities. Activities are appropriately supervised to enable children to accept challenges and confidently test out their skills in a supportive environment. The children's involvement in practising the emergency evacuation procedure and in discussion about safety rules, such as they cannot go outside without a member of staff being in that area contributes

to their understanding about taking responsibility to look after themselves. Staff review the outcomes of the emergency evacuation drill to ensure the children's safety is maintained.

Staff have secure knowledge of child protection issues. They have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities to protect children.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a relaxed and friendly environment. They relate well to staff and each other, developing a strong sense of belonging as they confidently talk and share experiences throughout the session. The children enjoy the staff's involvement in games and activities, such as reading stories and playing ball games.

The emphasis is on a child led provision where children follow their own interests. They make decisions and choose from a varied range of activities and resources available. They confidently ask staff if they want a specific piece of equipment which has not been set out, for example, the construction set. These requests are readily met by staff. Children are involved in planning the activities and have completed questionnaires, which contributes to the provision of activities and resources which meets children's individual interests.

Children are provided with resources and opportunities to use their imagination. For example, they express their ideas in craft activities and enjoy dancing to music. Staff support the children's spontaneous ideas. They decide to build a den. The large floor cushions and book stand is used to create the den. The children bring writing materials into their den as their play idea develops.

Children are given the opportunity to complete homework tasks with appropriate staff support, such as listening to reading.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are encouraged to feel valued as they are warmly welcomed to the setting and are listened to. The staff implement the settings equal opportunities policy, for example, working with parents to ensure appropriate care is given and not stereotyping play.

Children's behaviour is good and their understanding of right and wrong is increased as they take responsibility in developing the rules of acceptable behaviour which are displayed for reference. The children respond to the staff's effective strategies, such as praise, acknowledging the children's achievements and showing interest in what the children are doing.

Systems are in place to work in partnership with parents. The providers have sought the views of parents through questionnaires and their comments have been valued and consequent changes implemented. Display boards contain useful information for parents and helps them to understand the day-to-day running of the provision.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff work well together as a team which contributes to the calm and relaxed atmosphere within the setting and they present themselves as good role models for the children. Regular staff

meetings are held to discuss issues and plan activities. Staff are organised and well prepared as they attend training which includes areas, such as playwork, first aid, food hygiene and child protection. Procedures are in place to ensure staff are appropriately vetted and suitable to work with children.

Children are given support and attention from staff as the child-staff ratios are met. Staff appreciate the needs of the children after a day at school. The organisation of the provision aims to support children having freedom of choice and opportunities for spontaneous activities, as they develop their own ideas and play. However, the organisation of the registration at the beginning of the session is time consuming and some children become restless having to sit whilst this procedure is completed.

Confidential information is securely stored for children's protection. Most records are in place and maintained as required for children's welfare. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

### **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 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 written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice and treatment
- review the organisation of the registration session to ensure children maximise their enjoyment at the setting and ensure records are fully maintained and available for inspection.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)