

Safe Hands

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY360105
Inspection date	22 April 2008
Inspector	Ann Bamford
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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?

Safe hands opened in 2007 and operates from St Cuthberts C of E School. The school is situated in Darwen, Lancashire.

Children have use of the two halls, four classrooms, the computer suite and the outdoor area.

A maximum of 32 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 14.15 to 18.15 during term time, and offers holiday care from 08.00 to 18.00 on a planned basis.

The out of school club has four staff, one of whom is the manager. All staff are in direct contact with children throughout the sessions. The manager and deputy manager are working towards level three qualifications in play work.

At the time of inspection there were 22 children aged under eight years on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted well as staff have a clear understanding of their role in preventing the spread of infections. Children are developing understanding of effective hygiene as they wash their hands with the staff's guidance before food and after using the toilet. Children develop food hygiene skills as they are involved in planning, preparing and serving food. They wipe spillages quickly and clean surfaces thoroughly before serving food, without support from the staff.

There are policies and procedures in place to maintain children's good health. The setting obtains permission from parents to apply sun creams. However, they currently apply the same type of sun cream to all children, which impedes children's individual health needs being met. When accidents occur staff deal with them promptly and are confident in seeking additional assistance for children should it be required.

Food is provided which is very healthy and meets individual dietary needs, therefore, children are nourished effectively. Children have a very good awareness of why food keeps their bodies healthy, as they encourage each other to try different types of fruit that is offered at snack time.

Children are developing healthy bodies as they have regular access to play in either the school gym or outdoors, which encourages them to develop manoeuvring and climbing skills. Children are developing good balancing and manoeuvring skills as they have the opportunity to play football on a planned basis and other ball and skipping games each day. Children talk of enjoying the regular opportunities for exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing an awareness of how to keep themselves safe. They know the areas of school that they can use safely and keep within them. Children are skilfully assisted to choose equipment which they check confidently for themselves before use. The wide variety of equipment, such as games and building toys, enhances children's ability to choose their own equipment against their individual ability. Children are involved in their day to day safety at every level. Older children take part in helping with the organisation of activities and meals. For example, all children are involved in decisions about where they play, with older children reminding younger ones of the boundaries. Children's involvements in formal meetings and risk assessments helps them use these skills for the benefit of the whole group.

Children's safety is generally guaranteed as staff make very effective use of risk assessments and routine checks, to ensure that the environment remains safe. All staff enthusiastically contribute to developing, implementing and monitoring the risk assessments. However, there are times during the session when the main internal doors are open, meaning that people can enter without being greeted by staff which impedes children's total safety.

All children are developing an excellent awareness of fire safety as the setting plans regular drills and hold discussions with children about the safest way to leave the building and summon

help in the event of a fire. The regularity of practises and the follow up discussions leave children able to describe confidently what they will do in the event of a real fire.

All staff have a good understanding of their role in the protection of children. This ensures that children are very safe in the provision at all times. The high level of staff confidence in how to act in the event of an allegation being made ensures that children are fully safe whilst being cared for.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the whole of their time spent at the out of school club. They delight to tell visitors how much they enjoy the club and how they are involved in choosing what they do. Children achieve very well because the staff are skilled in the use of the play work principles, together with the knowledge of what individual children like to do. This means that children enjoy an exciting, well-planned play environment. Children participate enthusiastically and develop new skills in games, such as cricket or den building. Children's imaginative skills are fostered effectively as the staff take quiet moments to listen to children and develop their imaginary play by providing new equipment.

Children make excellent progress as a result of the staff's reviews of what that child can already do, and the involvement of parents in planning activities to select for their child enhances this. The records kept of children's work and input into things, such as rules, encourage children's pride in their own learning.

Children are developing very positive attitudes to learning. The use of effective routines and the encouragement to children to sit comfortably and discuss the day's events help children recall what they have learned that day. Good quality interaction between the staff and children encourages children to develop concentration skills and a desire to learn. Children learn new play skills effectively as staff play outside with children. Skilful help to individual children helps them develop the skills to turn a rope to skip or manipulate a hoop to use as a skipping tool.

Children are developing strong communication skills as they share experiences at snack time. They talk to the group appearing to enjoy the experience. This helps develop warm and caring relationships with each other.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing a good awareness of the wider world as they have constant access to toys and equipment which celebrate the difference in language and culture. This is enhanced further by the attention that is paid to providing activities which reflect different cultures.

Staff are well trained in educating and caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities. This ensures that children who do have specific needs are fully integrated into the setting and have their individual needs met whilst having the same access to activities as all other children.

Children's behaviour is very good as they are fully involved in making decisions throughout their time spent in the setting. They frequently make choices about how to act and are encouraged to be actively involved in decisions about when they will play out or change activities. Children are developing a strong understanding of their own needs and those of others as they

play collaboratively together. Older children are confident in their ability to assist younger children, for example, to clear a table together. This creates a warm and supportive atmosphere for all children to develop new skills.

Partnership with parents is good as parents are involved with the development of the service. They are given good quality written information about the service, as well as opportunities to respond to questionnaires. They are part of the planning for the child's entry into the setting and receive good quality information about how care is offered. Parents are given verbal feedback on how their child is progressing whilst being cared for. This creates an environment where children have their individual needs met in an efficient manner. Parents speak highly of the service and the quality of staff.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are kept generally safe as staff are vetted. However, the setting does not keep records of staff and volunteers which includes information about recruitment training and qualifications. This fails to meet the National Standards as there is no evidence to show that staff caring for children are suitable. The setting makes effective use of staff training plans, staff meetings and plans appraisals to ensure that staff develop their skills in caring for children throughout their time employed in the club.

Staff organise the environment, toys and other resources effectively to provide care so that children enjoy and look forward to attending. Policies and procedures, though general to the organisation, are used well by staff in the setting to meet children's needs. The staff work successfully as a team to meet children's needs effectively because they have a shared understanding of good practice. Effective use is made of formal staff meetings to ensure that all staff are working towards children having fun whilst being cared for. Staff use their time resourcefully to spend time playing and talking to children, enhancing the children's feeling of belonging and being valued.

The required documentation is in place, used well by staff and supports safe care of 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 the 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):

- continue to develop procedures for ensuring that administration of medication and sun creams meets all children's individual health needs
- continue to develop an effective system for managing access to the premises
- ensure that records on staff and volunteers contain information about recruitments, training and qualifications and that they are kept on the premises

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