

# Mosaics - St Marks Out of School

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY360697
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<b>Inspector</b>	Andrea, Marie Paulson

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<b>Registered person</b>	Mosaics
<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?

Mosaics is run by Mosaics-St Marks Out of School Committee. It operates from the hall in the premises of St Marks C of E School, which is situated in the village of Natland, near Kendal, Cumbria. A maximum of 16 children under eight years may attend the out of school club at any one time. There are currently 24 children on roll. The out of school club is open each weekday from 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.30 to 18.00 during term time and 09.00 to 17.30 during school holidays. Children have access to a secure, enclosed, outdoor play area. The out of school club employs seven staff, most of whom have relevant qualifications.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have their health and dietary needs met satisfactorily as the staff work closely with parents, for instance, records show relevant information for each child. Staff have the experience and training to meet individual health needs. However, there was little protection from the sun on the particularly hot day of the inspection, when children played outside for most of the session.

Children have a varied range of activities which include active play in the spacious hall. They develop strength and coordination when playing outdoors. Children run around the extensive field, climb and balance in the adventure playground and enjoy ball games. They have much freedom of movement between the hall and outdoors. Children, therefore, have several opportunities to develop movement skills.

Children learn about sound health and hygiene practices as part of the daily routine when they wash their hands before snack time. They develop an understanding of making healthy food choices as they are provided with fruit, cereals and toast. Children are able to have a drink when needed throughout the session and staff take care to ask if they are thirsty. They are familiar with the routine and settle well at snack time when they sit together around the tables and much conversation takes place.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure and welcoming environment so that they feel confident and safe. The premises are light, colourful and well-maintained. Access to the premises is carefully monitored and staff oversee the collection of children. They leave with authorised people only and the practice of signing them out is part of an established routine. The equipment is sufficient and in sound condition so that children can play with resources safely. Risk assessments are partially devised but do not fully cover the indoor and outdoor premises and activities.

Staff members ensure that children are supervised both indoors and outdoors throughout the session. However, the ground rules are not consistently implemented, for instance, about not running indoors. Children learn to play safely, such as not kicking up dust in case it gets into someone's eyes. They learn to keep themselves safe as they tie up shoe laces so as not to trip. However, they are not sufficiently familiar with the club's emergency procedure as it is not practised regularly.

Staff have good knowledge of child protection policies, procedures and local contacts so that children are further safeguarded.

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

The provision is good.

Children interact confidently with staff and settle well into the familiar routine. Their learning and play needs are supported well as they access an interesting range of planned activities. They have many opportunities to choose and develop their own activities during free play. Staff have good knowledge of the children as individuals and are able to provide guidance when appropriate, such as for creative play.

Children's language skills and self-expression are encouraged as they talk together during role play and discuss experiences while having their snacks. They concentrate well as they practise their skills on the adventure playground. Children occupy themselves well as they choose from the accessible activities. They feel confident to ask for additional activities stored in cupboards nearby. Children develop their imagination as they use outdoor features to create adventures 'over the swamp' and on the 'ice field'. They devise their own fun games as they run along with a sheet billowing out and jump into it. They use materials and furniture in the hall to spontaneously build dens for role play.

The provision also includes a breakfast club and holiday club. Evidence available at the inspection demonstrates that a good range of appropriate and interesting activities is provided. Children enjoy being at the club and playing with friends they know from school. They play well together and have several opportunities to develop their individual skills.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children become aware of different cultures with resources that reflect the wider world, such as books and planned craft activities. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are supported well through staff experience and working closely with the parents, so that all children are welcome and actively participate in the club.

Children are generally well behaved and learn to follow the good role models of staff members when using good manners. They learn responsible behaviour as they tidy up after an activity and share resources. The children react well to appropriate behaviour management techniques, such as meaningful explanations, so that they are learning right from wrong. The club has a code of conduct for good behaviour, but this is not always applied consistently. The more boisterous play of older children at times disturbs the quieter play of younger children. Children are lively and learning to be confident in a busy and friendly atmosphere. They learn that they are valued when praised and encouraged by staff and when asked for their views using questionnaires.

Continuity of individual care is ensured with informal, regular handovers with the parents so that children's individual needs are continuously met. Some information about the provision is displayed, including staff photographs and some policies. The set of policies is not complete or readily available to parents. The required individual information and parental consents are in place to promote appropriate care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children take an active part in the club which is supervised by sufficient staff to promote the children's enjoyment and achievements. Most of the staff members are qualified and experienced. Relevant checks are carried out on staff to ensure their suitability. Staff work well as a team to supervise both indoor and outdoor areas so that children have much freedom of movement. They also work together to ensure the smooth running of the session.

Children in the local community benefit from the continuity of care from the toddler group, to the pre-school group, and on to the school and out of school club. The close links between the club and the school promotes this continuity for the children. The recording systems are mostly well maintained so that children receive appropriate care. However, although children's attendance is recorded daily, it is not sufficiently clear to meet requirements. Information is kept secure and confidential.

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 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):

- consider ways to provide shade for children to protect them from the heat of the sun in hot weather
- further develop risk assessments to identify and resolve hazards indoors and outdoors
- carry out emergency evacuation practises regularly
- consistently reinforce safe practices such as no running indoors
- reinforce consistent ground rules for being considerate to others
- complete the policies and procedures and consider how to make them more accessible to parents
- develop a system that clearly monitors the number of children under eight years of age who attend the sessions.

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)