

Firbobs Out of School Club (Juniors)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY360882
Inspection date	19 May 2008
Inspector	Elaine Murray
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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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Firbobs Out of School Club (Juniors) opened in 2007 and is privately owned. The club operates from several areas within Higher Bebington Junior school, in Bebington, Wirral. A maximum of 40 children under eight years may attend the provision at any one time, although children up to the age of 11 years may attend. The setting is open each weekday from 15.30 to 17.30 in school term time only. The children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently seven children aged from four to under eight years on roll. The provision is primarily for children who attend the school but children from other local schools may attend. The provision employs six staff, five of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop physical skills and enjoyment of exercise. They enthusiastically make use of the range of climbing equipment at the local park. Children develop skills playing football and this is developed well by staff. Children have access to a wealth of

outdoor equipment when using the school playing field and take part in a broad range of games. In poor weather they have access to the school hall for physical play. Staff value the importance of outdoor fresh air and exercise. To help children to play outdoors during winter months for the maximum length of time, they have provided children with high visibility jackets.

Children develop an excellent understanding of healthy eating and enjoyment of foods which are beneficial to their health. They help to prepare their own snack, such as sandwiches with cucumber and tomato, and fruit kebabs. Children enthusiastically devise recipes and take part in making 'smoothie' drinks using fresh fruit. Snack time is made special, as the tables are prepared with tablecloths and a 'menu' is available each day. Children have recently planted a range of vegetables and some fruit trees in the club's garden area, which they will harvest and eat. Drinking water is readily available for children at all times, helping to promote their good health. Children develop an excellent understanding of hygienic procedures. They are clearly aware of the need to wash hands before eating. They take part in cleaning tables before and after snacks, and wear disposable gloves when preparing food.

Children's good health is promoted extremely well as staff take positive steps to prevent the spread of infection. The group's clear policies on sickness and medication are shared with parents. Most staff are qualified in first aid. Parents and children are aware of which staff present each session hold this qualification, as it is displayed on the door to the main room. Staff pay a high level of attention to meeting children's dietary needs. They take care to provide snacks that are suitable for all of the children attending, including those with particular needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children develop an excellent awareness of how to protect their own safety. They know that on a walk to the local park they must stay close to staff, walk slowly in a line and not cross the road until a member of staff says they can. Staff are highly effective in promoting this awareness. For example, they share their written risk assessments of the premises with children and ask them to think about what hazards or dangers there may be in the club. Children then draw up their own risk assessment. Staff also discuss 'stranger danger' with children, and invite a police officer to talk to the children about this and other safety issues. Staff make a daily check of the premises and outdoor area, which is recorded. They produce a detailed risk assessment which is regularly reviewed. These measures are highly effective in keeping children safe.

Staff create a stimulating and welcoming environment for children. There are photographs of the children and samples of their artwork in the entrance porch and in the main room. This promotes children's sense of belonging. Children have a comfortable area to sit quietly and look at books. They have access to the school's computer suite, hall and outside areas. Staff make highly effective use of these areas to provide an interesting environment where children can relax, follow their interests and develop physical skills. There is a broad range of good quality toys and equipment which are suitable for different ages and abilities. This helps to meet children's needs effectively.

Children are very well protected as staff have a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and are familiar with the procedures to be followed. Several staff have attended recent training in this area to update their knowledge. The setting's clear child protection policy is shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy, settled and thoroughly enjoy their time at the club. Relationships between staff and children are extremely positive. Staff pay excellent attention to promoting children's confidence, self-esteem and sense of belonging. On arrival at the club, children hang their coats on pegs labelled with name cards which they have designed, and staff have laminated. Children are encouraged to enter competitions and have a great sense of achievement and delight when they see, for example, their cover design for the club's 'membership' application form being used. Children are asked to contribute ideas for activities and staff follow their interests in learning. For example, when using the school field staff follow children's ideas for games and a nature trail. Children confidently talk to staff and share their experiences. Staff have a very enthusiastic approach and are committed to ensuring that children are happy and involved. Children enjoy using computers, playing board games, taking part in role play and craft activities, making models and looking at books. On one day each week, staff provide a 'homework club' when the computer room is used for children who wish to complete their homework. Those who do so are awarded a sticker, and once they have collected sufficient stickers they are awarded a small prize. These positive measures ensure that children develop confidence and enjoy their learning. Children speak highly of the club and how much they enjoy their time there. Children who wrote the text accompanying the club's application form invite children to come to the 'best out of school club in the world'.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's ability to make a positive contribution to the life of the setting is excellent. Children are valued and respected as individuals. They play an active part in the running of the club. Club council representatives are chosen, whose role is to consult with other club members to gain their ideas for activities or improvements to the club. Children take part in snack preparation, laying out tables and clearing away afterwards. They design questionnaires to be sent out to parents regarding the quality of the club and any improvements they would like to see. Children are encouraged to develop a responsible and caring attitude as they raise money to adopt an animal at a local zoo. They show care and consideration towards each other. When planning a trip out to meet with younger children from another club at a local park, children voluntarily suggest that one of the 'rules' should be that they are kind to the younger children.

Staff provide a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity. For example, when some children attending the club emigrated to Australia, staff introduced a range of activities for Australia Day to help children's understanding. Children learn about festivals, such as Chinese New Year, when they look at Chinese clothes and make lanterns.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. They respond well to staff's positive approach and consistent boundaries. Children have devised their own set of rules in discussion with staff. There is a clear reward system in place for good behaviour. Children's understanding is effectively developed through activities, such as anti bullying week, when children are involved in role play and design anti bullying posters. These measures contribute very effectively to developing children's awareness of right and wrong.

Children's well-being is significantly enhanced by the effective partnership with parents and carers. Parents are well informed about the club and its policies. The noticeboard in the entrance

porch gives helpful information about the club. Parents speak highly of their children's enthusiasm for the club and the varied activities provided. They comment on the approachability of staff and the fact that they feel well informed about their child's experiences and progress. Staff request information about children's preferences and needs before placement begins and use this very effectively to meet children's needs. Parents' views are valued and requested through regular questionnaires.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is enhanced by the excellent organisation and dedication of staff, almost all of whom are appropriately qualified. Thorough recruitment procedures and effective measures to ensure the continued suitability of staff ensure that those working at the setting are highly effective in providing quality care for children. A clear appraisal system identifies training needs and staff demonstrate an ongoing commitment to further training. All adults in the setting have a very high regard for the well-being of all the children. They are deployed very effectively to ensure that children's needs are met. The staff work well as a team and they regularly reflect, monitor and improve the quality of their care. All staff know their roles and responsibilities; this ensures that children's care is promoted extremely well.

A comprehensive range of policies and procedures that underpins the daily operation of the provision is effectively carried out in practice. Staff use records effectively to support the care of children and comply with regulations.

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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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