

Happy Days Childcare @ St Georges Church of England High School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY364841
Inspection date	04 August 2008
Inspector	Ferroza Saiyed
Setting Address	St. Georges C of E High School, Cherry Tree Road, BLACKPOOL, FY4 4PH
Telephone number	01253 886119
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Registered person	Happy Days Lancashire Ltd
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?

Happy Days Childcare has been registered since 2008. It operates from St Georges C of E High School in Blackpool. The surrounding local area is residential with some local amenities. The holiday club serves mainly the local hospital, providing holiday care whilst children's parents work.

Registration is for a total of 48 children aged from three to eight years. There are currently 100 children on roll who attend for a variety of sessions; 35 children are under eight years old. Facilities for children within the setting comprise of the school hall, the dining room and an art room. There is a large adjacent outdoor play area offering opportunity for physical activities.

The setting offers care during school holidays, five days a week. Sessions are from 07.00 until 18.00. The setting supports children with learning difficulties.

There are four staff members working directly with the children; three of the staff hold an appropriate qualification. The setting is a member of the 4Children Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are adequately protected from infection and taken care of if they have an accident or become ill. Staff follow general health and hygiene guidelines, such as the sick child policy. Medication, accident and existing injury records are routinely countersigned by parents to promote children's continuing care. Children access outdoor activities daily, weather permitting, which contributes to their good health. They run and play in the fresh air and practise physical skills, such as tennis, football and team games.

Children are not reminded of the importance of personal hygiene at appropriate times of the day. For example, they are not prompted to wash their hands following outdoor play and before snack time. As a result, they do not learn good personal hygiene habits to maintain their health. Children's welfare is protected because there is always a staff member present who has been trained in first aid.

Children are satisfactorily nourished as they are provided with a variety of snacks, including fresh fruit, vegetable sticks, toasts, cereals, milk and water. They monitor their own needs for a drink as they access fresh drinking water throughout the day. Snack time is a positive social occasion in which children sit together and talk about what they plan to do at the club.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are looked after in a welcoming, bright and well-maintained environment. There is plenty of space within defined areas of the building, which means they are offered diverse opportunities. The club has sole use of the school and rooms are suitable for their purpose, so children are kept safe. Play equipment reflects the needs of the children and is sufficient for the number attending, this is maintained safely and offers a range of activities to provide children with plenty to do. However, there is a lack of suitable resources for children to use, for example, children are not given plates to put their toast on, which means children do not experience good practice when eating.

Children's safety and security is sound owing to staff following health and safety procedures. For example, visitors and children's arrival and collection are monitored. Staff carry out daily equipment checks and visual risk assessments on all areas used by the children. Children have opportunities to learn about fire safety through practising the emergency evacuation procedures. However, the practice is not recorded or evaluated, which compromises children's safety.

Children are safeguarded because staff understand their role in child protection. There are clear procedures to follow which staff are fully aware of. The designated person and a number of other staff have attended training in child protection and are aware of possible signs of abuse or neglect. This means that concerns can be passed on promptly to promote children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy and achieve because staff follow the children's lead and plan a range of interesting activities which keeps them occupied and allows time for them to express themselves. They

remain motivated and interested as they sit and concentrate during a quiz activity and when making robots. They readily sit with staff and communicate to each other about what they are doing as they talk about their time at the club.

Staff plan and evaluate a wide range of interesting activities with children. Consequently children thoroughly enjoy their time at the club. Children make full use of the resources and activities which successfully support and enhance their social and recreational requirements. Children are well supported as staff work and play directly with individual children or within small groups and respond to their needs and interests. Some children dressed up and pretended to be on fashion show as others judged their talents. This promotes children's imagination and creativity. Staff show genuine care and warmth towards the children. Staff ensure they have equal access and are fully occupied and enjoying themselves.

Children enjoy opportunities to giggle, laugh and smile as they communicate with their friends and staff during their time at the club. This means children's social needs and social skills are catered for in a positive and encouraging environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff implement a clear policy on equal opportunities. Children develop positive attitudes as they are encouraged to be aware of and consider others. They routinely use resources and take part in themed activities which promote diversity, such as Diwali. Children become aware of similarity and difference in the wider world. Staff have a sound understanding of special needs issues and clear procedures to promote inclusion.

Children are learning to take responsibility for their own behaviour because staff follow positive and appropriate strategies for helping children learn to manage their behaviour. Children learn the boundaries and guidelines because staff are consistent. Staff speak positively to children using praise and encouragement effectively to celebrate their efforts and achievements. As a consequence children are confident and display high self-esteem. Children play harmoniously together and older children support the younger children as they freely select their own toys and play equipment. Children and staff have good relationships which contributes to children being generally settled and happy.

Children benefit from positive relationships with staff and their parents as they chat together at the end of the sessions. There is a noticeboard with relevant information on the club, for example certificates, and the contact details of the regulator are displayed. Parents receive contractual agreements and can access information about the club's policies and procedure on the internet. Children are looked after according to parents' wishes. In the comments book, parents commend staff for providing quality of care and for the well-organised play opportunities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff demonstrate that they have a clear sense of purpose and a commitment to continual improvement. They regularly assess their practice, including through staff meetings, have good links with Early Years and are proactive in seeking new ways to enhance outcomes for children.

Recruitment and vetting procedures contribute to children being protected and cared for by staff with a good knowledge and understanding of child development. For example, staff qualification requirements are well met. Induction training, which is formally recorded, is effective in ensuring that staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities. Staff are well supported in their development through detailed regular appraisals that include training plans.

Staff work very well as a team and their good deployment reflects in the successful organisation of the club. The adult to child ratio positively supports children's care, learning and play and as a result children receive good levels of support.

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 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):

- improve hygiene routines by ensuring children wash their hands before eating
- provide children with appropriate utensils at snack times to enable them to further develop their independence and social skills
- keep detailed records of fire evacuations so the procedure can be evaluated for the well-being of children.

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