

Schools Out Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY249230
Inspection date	16 April 2008
Inspector	Julie Wright
Setting Address	Pondhu School, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DS
Telephone number	07774 906078
E-mail	
Registered person	Yvonne Smith
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?

Schools Out Club Pondhu is a privately owned Out of School provision. It opened in 2002 and operates from the school hall and classroom in Pondhu Primary School. It is situated in the town of St Austell, Cornwall. A maximum of 50 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The club is open five days a week from 07.30 until 09.00 and 15.00 until 18.15 during term times and from 07.30 until 18.15 on Saturdays, all year round, including school holidays. Children have access to a secure enclosed play area.

There are currently 200 children, aged from four to 13 years on roll. Children from local schools attend the club. The setting currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club employs 15 members of staff, 11 of whom hold appropriate early years or play work qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual dietary requirements are met in the setting. On Saturdays and during the school holidays children take packed lunches. For the breakfast and after school club staff provide healthy options, such as cereals, fresh fruits and savoury snacks. Children arrive at different times and help themselves to the prepared snack. However, food is left uncovered and therefore not hygienically presented to prevent the risk of contamination. Children are sufficiently hydrated with access to drinks throughout the session.

Children are competent in their personal care and show understanding of general hygiene routines. Staff implement suitable policies and procedures which protect children from the risk of illness and infection. They regularly clean the tables and ensure that facilities are appropriately maintained. Details of accidents and medication are in order, which promotes health and safety for children. The majority of staff have current first aid certificates.

Children benefit from regular outdoor play opportunities in a playground and on the school field. They have a selection of equipment, such as bats and balls, during term time. In the holidays the club has more storage space and additional resources are made available.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are familiar with the setting and move around with confidence. Staff have access to the hall at the end of the school day and prepare activities as children arrive. They provide temporary notice boards to ensure that certificates are displayed during the session. Children take their pictures and paintings home in term time, as the club does not have designated wall space to display their creativity. Suitable procedures are in place to ensure that the premises and resources are appropriately maintained. A reasonable variety of toys and games are available and rotated between clubs to promote interest.

Staff complete risk assessments to identify and minimise the risk of hazards to children. They provide adequate supervision of children during outdoor play. For example, staff are strategically positioned to ensure that children remain in sight as they go to and from the playground. Appropriate ratios are applied for outings, which promotes safety for children. The fire evacuation procedure is practised each half-term, which means that children become familiar with the drill.

Children's welfare is satisfactorily safeguarded. Staff are aware of the procedures and recognise signs for concern. Sufficient staff have attended updated training within the last three years, which ensures up to date information is in place. Parents are informed of the safeguarding policy through the information provided at the time of registration.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have warm relationships with the staff and firm friendships with each other. They are happy as they arrive and form groups as they begin to play. Children are imaginative and cooperative, being focussed and interested in their activities. For example, they concentrate

for considerable periods as they build with construction toys. They understand rules and take turns as they play popular board games. Children may bring their own electronic games, which are appropriately time limited. Some children prefer to sit quietly and choose to do their homework.

Craft activities are available at each session, such as painting, sticking and making glitter pictures. In term times the sessions are informal and spontaneous. For the holidays, staff plan the time to link with a theme, such as, 'Jungle' related activities. Children enjoy the opportunity to make model animals and play 'animal' games. They also take part in baking sessions, for example, they make crispy cakes and bread. Children are secure and confident in the setting. Staff provide appropriate levels of support to children's play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff promote positive attitudes in children, for example, they provide activities to help children become aware of diversity. A selection of resources reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability. During the year children consider other countries and cultural celebrations. A suitable equal opportunities policy is in place and staff promote inclusion. Children's individual requirements are discussed and met in the setting.

Children behave well and respond in a positive way towards staff and other adults. They understand the rules of the club, which promote consideration, manners and respect. Older children show a sense of responsibility and like to help care for the younger ones.

Staff have positive working relationships with parents. They have regular discussions and suitable communication systems. For example, parents' views are sought each year through a questionnaire. Staff provide parents with relevant information on childcare policies and procedures. At inspection parents give very positive feedback and value the care given.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the consistent care of a suitably organised staff group. Staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities and work well together. There are clear procedures in place for the collection of children from schools. Ratios are maintained, although the registration system does not indicate when staff leave or return to the premises. Vetting and recruitment procedures are in place, however, the health declaration is not comprehensively detailed to fully ensure health suitability.

Staff appraisals and meetings identify training needs and help staff to evaluate their provision. They attend required training, such as in first aid, and have some awareness of changes to the regulatory framework. Records and documentation are appropriately maintained to promote the health, safety and welfare of children. Certificates of registration and insurance are on display, although at inspection the replacement insurance certificate was not available.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the quality of care was judged to be inadequate. The provider was asked to ensure that the name, home address and date of birth of each child is recorded; and to ensure that at least one member of staff has a current first aid certificate at any one time. Since then the children's details have been recorded in full and the majority of staff have completed first aid training. The completed actions ensure appropriate improvements in order to meet the National Standards.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted received one complaint relating to National Standards 1 – Suitable person; 2 – Organisation; 3 - Care, learning and play; 5 – Equipment; 6 – Safety; 7 – Health; 8 – Food and drink; 12 – Working in partnership with parents and carers and 13 – Child protection. Concerns were raised that the person in charge did not have the appropriate skills and ability, that the conditions of registration may have been broken, that staffing ratios were not being maintained, that the children's individual needs were not being met, that the setting was not providing sufficient resources, that the premises were not secure, that staff do not hold a current first aid certificate, that drinking water was not available, that there is not a working relationship with parents and that child protection policies were not appropriate. Ofsted conducted an unannounced visit to investigate and found that the setting was not meeting National Standards 2, 12 and 13. As a result, actions were set to ensure that staffing ratios are met, that the complaints procedures complies with the latest legislation and that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The provider completed the actions and remains qualified for registration.

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):

- improve the details on the health declaration form to fully ensure the health suitability of staff
- ensure that the registration system clearly shows when staff are on the premises
- improve the food hygiene procedures to ensure that the provision of food is consistently hygienic.

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