

Time Out Childcare - Park Gate

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY350300
Inspection date	02 June 2008
Inspector	Judith Reed
Setting Address	Park Gate Junior School, Northmore Road, Locks Heath, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 6LX
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Registered person	Time Out Childcare
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?

Time Out Childcare at Park Gate school is one of several out of school care groups which are privately owned by Time Out Childcare and operate in the local area. The group registered in 2007 and operates from a separate building within the grounds of Park Gate Junior school, in Locks Heath, Hampshire. A maximum of 16 children may attend the breakfast group at any one time. The group is open from 7:30 to 8:40 each morning during term time. Children share an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 15 children aged from 3 to 8 years on roll, although it is the group's practice to take children from when they attend full-time education until they reach 12 years of age. Only children attending the school may attend the breakfast group.

Time Out Childcare employ two members of staff to work at the setting, and at least one of these has an appropriate childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are healthy, as clear and suitable procedures are in place and hygienic routines are followed. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before having breakfast and they clean their teeth after eating. Children have their own toothbrushes in the group and staff ensure they are stored appropriately with individual covers. Children use the toilet within the building independently and are gently reminded to wash their hands when necessary. Staff are trained in first aid and a first aid kit is available. Parents give written permission for emergency medical treatment on the initial child registration forms and accidents are clearly recorded. Staff inform the school if children have had a notable accident and telephone parents to keep them informed. Parents are asked to sign the accident book on the following day.

Children enjoy a nutritious breakfast of toast, muffins, pancakes or cereals with milk. They tell staff what they would like to eat and staff prepare the toast with spread and jam, honey or marmite. Staff also make their drinks of milk, water or squash. Children frequently ask for more toast.

Children have limited opportunities for physical play activities due to the small amount of time they spend in the breakfast group. A spacious school playing field is available for outside play in suitable weather. Staff are planning to offer children a breakfast picnic during good weather. Children move around freely within the playroom.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enter the building with their parents and go through an entrance lobby where they leave their coats and school bags. They have use of a room which is also used for music practice by the school. There is a toilet off the entrance lobby. The door into the building is not currently locked during the session and children may be at risk. The building is situated within the well fenced, spacious, playing field and playground of the school. They may use the outside areas when possible during fine weather.

Children are protected by staff, who carry out daily risk assessments according to a prepared list. Children take part in regular fire evacuation drills which are carefully recorded and evaluated to further improve practice. The staff inform school staff of the children that attend breakfast group in case they have misplaced any items. Visitors are not always asked to sign the visitor's book and children are therefore at risk.

Children are offered a choice of toys and equipment and they are encouraged to choose their own activities. A limited amount of equipment is put out for the children, however, they ask staff for further items, including construction toys and craft equipment. Children also help themselves to toys from storage drawers. All equipment is clearly labelled and new staff, as well as the children, are able to help tidy away.

Children are safeguarded by a knowledgeable staff team. All staff are aware of child protection procedures and a policy is in place. Staff are well trained and report any issues to a child protection officer. Staff are aware of their professional responsibilities regarding child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enter confidently and help to set up the room with benches to sit on. They settle around the table ready for breakfast. New children are welcomed warmly by staff, who briefly explain the routine to them. They are enthusiastically welcomed by the other children as they know one another from school.

After breakfast children are shown an idea for a craft activity and told they may make it if they wish. Some children do create picture frames as suggested, ready to display their previous artwork. They help themselves to equipment from the craft table. Pencils, scissors, crayons, glue and paper are all readily available.

Other children tell each other, and the staff, some jokes and rhymes. They move on to build models with the Lego bricks. A group of four children organise a game of Uno. They sit on the floor together and take turns around the group. Staff encourage the children to help one another with the game. Older children sometimes do school work writing activities.

Staff state that children particularly enjoy art activities even though they have little time before they need to go to school. Some children's hand prints are displayed on the store room door. Staff try to prepare activities which will not take very long and they also store children's work in the store cupboard overnight when necessary. Children enter competitions run by the wider After School Network. Staff ensure parents complete competition application forms. The children like to know that their group is part of a wider organisation and children all over the country are involved.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated as individuals and staff have an understanding of equal opportunities. Staff get to know the children and encourage them to try different activities. Children have made tracings of their hands and decorated them with Bindi patterns. Children are offered different foods linked to festivals such as Diwali or Chinese New Year.

All children are valued and staff get to know their individual needs well. Staff are trained to care for children with disabilities or learning difficulties. They work closely with the wider childcare team as well as with parents to support all children.

Children behave very well. They are familiar with the routine of the group and are praised for their efforts. Children are involved in the setting and are given responsibilities, such as signalling the 'five minute warning' before they start to pack up the equipment. The responsible person chooses a percussion instrument to play to attract everyone's attention and tell them there are five more minutes. Another child signals with a gong that it is tidying up time and everyone joins in putting the equipment away before going into school.

Children benefit from the familiar relationship between their parents and the staff. Parents are welcomed into the group at the beginning of the session where they sign the register of attendance. Staff ensure parents are informed about policies and procedures through the notice board and leaflets. Parents complete the necessary documentation before children start and a good business relationship is formed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are protected as most staff are trained and experienced. Suitable recruitment procedures are in place and all necessary checks are carried out on new appointments. Staff move around the various Time Out Childcare groups and children are familiar with many members of staff. This works well in case of staff sickness or absence. The whole team work well together.

Children move around freely in the organised environment. The staff are aware of where the children are at all times and remain with the children. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Parents are responsible for signing the children in on the daily registration sheet. A notice board in the lobby shows information including the Certificate of Registration and insurance document. Documentation is stored in a confidential manner in the store room.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable: this is the first inspection since registration.

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

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):

- ensure children are secure and safe throughout the session
- ensure all visitors sign the visitors book and record their arrival and departure times

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