

Aldryngton and St Peter's After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY236704
Inspection date	19 May 2008
Inspector	Joanne Graham
Setting Address	Silverdale Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 7HS
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Registered person	Aldryngton & St Peter's After School Club
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?

Aldryngton and St Peter's After School Club registered in 2003 for children who attend Aldryngton and Earley St Peter's Primary schools. It is situated in Maiden Erleigh Secondary School and operates from the dining area of the sixth form building. The club is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children aged four to under eight years old at any one time. The club opens five days a week during school term times only. Sessions are from 15:15 until 18:00. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There is a playing field in the Aldryngton school site for the children to use.

There are currently 54 children on roll and the club serves children from the local community. The setting has provision to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and who speak English as an additional language. The setting employs six staff, of whom one holds a Level 3 qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children understand simple good health and hygiene practices. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. Staff promote independence well and respect the children's privacy. Children play in a clean and tidy environment, which is a suitable temperature. Some staff hold a current first aid certificate and a first aid box is easily accessible. This means they can give appropriate care if there is an accident. There are systems in place to record accidents and incidents accurately. Only staff who hold a suitable food hygiene certificate and practice good hygiene skills are able to prepare food on site. This promotes children's welfare. Children enjoy a varied and nutritious menu. They have their health and dietary needs met because staff work well with parents. Meals are sociable times and children share their news with their friends and staff. This helps children develop good eating habits. Children recognise their bodily needs and can access drinking water on request.

Children enjoy regular physical activities that help keep them in good health, for example, walking from school to the club daily and games, such as football, table tennis and using hoops, in a designated area in the hall. This helps to promote their understanding of keeping healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff organise the indoor space, allowing children to move around safely and comfortably. Adequate systems prevent unwanted visitors entering the premises and ensure the environment and the equipment is suitable and safe. Only staff open the door and check identification and daily health and safety checks monitor the premises, surrounding grounds and resources. This promotes children's safety. Children and staff practise the emergency evacuation procedures on a regular basis, fire exits are clearly marked and free from clutter and fire extinguishers are in place. This promotes children's welfare.

Children access toys and equipment, which are age appropriate, clean and in good repair. Staff complete and follow weekly plans and ensure they provide toys and equipment that appeal to the children's interests, are in good repair and free from choke hazards. Staff implement rules to help keep children safe and implement these sensitively, such as sitting down to eat and drink, staying within the main room and informing staff when they need to access the toilet and cloakroom. Staff supervise the children and do not leave them unattended with persons not vetted. This safeguards their well-being.

Staff have an adequate knowledge of signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and procedures to follow if they have concerns. Most staff have attended recent training and supporting documentation and contact numbers are easily accessible. This promotes children's welfare. However, the information available lacks mandatory detail with regards to procedures to follow if allegations of abuse are made against staff and staff lack knowledge of how they will proceed in the event of an allegation. This does not sufficiently safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and happy in the setting because staff are welcoming and provide a friendly and inviting environment. Staff are attentive to the children's needs, likes and preferences and support them to help them enjoy their time in the club. Children confidently approach staff for reassurance and to discuss their play, and staff sit with them to increase their enjoyment and encourage them to participate. Children make positive relationships and relate very well with the staff and other children. They enjoy social occasions, such as group games and snack time. They often invite staff into their play and are confident to express their views.

Children are keen to participate in planned activities and join in well. They listen to instructions to enable them to take part fully and respond with interest and enthusiasm. They especially enjoy decorating snakes and butterflies, building with Lego and using the Play Station. Children make some choices with regard to self-selecting activities. Staff devise weekly plans of varying activities, including weekly trips to the library and cooking activities. Staff respond positively to the children's suggestions, incorporating these into the setting where possible.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff treat children with respect and use praise and encouragement to promote and develop a positive self image. They treat children as individuals and acknowledge differences and preferences. Children talk about their home life and things that are important to them. Staff work with parents to meet individual children's needs. The setting has arrangements to care for children with additional needs and children who speak English as an additional language and promote inclusion well. Children are becoming aware of wider society and foster an understanding through celebrating Chinese New Year, having an Indian culture day and by visiting the local community.

Children understand responsible behaviour as staff consistently reinforce this. They understand about taking turns and sharing and behaviour is good. Staff skilfully negotiate sharing of very popular toys such as the computer games and children realise this is beneficial. Staff sensitively manage boundaries and children are aware of the club's rules which they adhere to well. The partnership with parents is satisfactory and they are happy with the provision of care provided for their children. They relate with the staff and engage in informal discussions whilst collecting their child, contributing to continuity of care for their children. Parents are able to access details of the regulator as this is displayed and the complaints log is easily available. This helps to contribute to adequate working relationships.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well protected and cared for by staff who have an adequate knowledge and understanding of child development. Staff have regard for the children's welfare and are beginning to work as a team. They are aware of their roles and ensure children are fully occupied. The supervisor holds a suitable Level 3 childcare qualification and has attended recent training to update her knowledge. Although the staff training action plan details how the group will address having half the staff working with the children holding a suitable qualification, the

setting have been unable to achieve this due to courses being postponed. They are proactive in researching alternative training, although they are still not meeting this requirement and only one member of staff holds a suitable qualification.

Adult to child ratios are adhered to at all times. Written policies and procedures support staff to promote the welfare, safety and care of children. All documentation is in place, is stored securely and confidentially is maintained. Staff use record keeping systems to meet children's needs and most contain sufficient detail. This promotes children's well-being. The certificate of registration is displayed during operational hours. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the setting had three actions. The new supervisor holds a suitable Level 3 childcare qualification and has sufficient experience of being in this role. This supports children's welfare. The action plan detailing how half of all childcare staff will hold a Level 2 qualification in childcare is completed and used as a working document. There are systems in place to implement this. Three staff have received funding and been offered places on a suitable course. However, the college has been unable to start the staff on the course despite the setting making regular requests. The setting is still advertising for a qualified deputy, but have not been successful. This is on-going and the setting demonstrates a commitment to ensuring it succeeds in maintaining half of the staff with a Level 2 qualification. All records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision are maintained and always easily accessible for inspection by the early years inspector and for the staff to use to support their own practices. This safeguards the children's well-being.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 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):

- make sure the child protection policy contains mandatory details of procedures to follow if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff and ensure all staff are aware of these procedures

- continue to make sure half of staff working directly with the children hold suitable childcare qualifications or are working towards a childcare qualification to maintain minimum requirements.

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