

# The Haven

Inspection report for early years provision

---

**Unique Reference Number** EY305522

**Inspection date** 22 May 2008

**Inspector** Anna Davies

**Setting Address** Stilton Primary School, Church Street, Stilton, Peterborough,  
Cambridgeshire, PE7 3RF

**Telephone number** mobile 07934133267

**E-mail**

**Registered person** Julie Ann Richards

**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](http://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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Haven Out of School club opened under its current private ownership in 2005. It operates from a mobile building situated within the grounds of Stilton Primary School. The club have use of the school playgrounds. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday during school term times from 07:45 to 08:45 and 15:15 to 18:00 and from 08:00 to 17:45 during school holidays.

There are currently 29 children under eight years of age on roll. Most of the children who attend the club also attend the primary school. The club currently supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The group currently employs four staff, including the owner, who work with the children. The owner has a Level 3 qualification and the deputy manager is currently working towards a Level 3 play work qualification. The setting receives support from the local authority.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is inadequate.

Children's good health is not effectively promoted. Children wash their hands prior to serving their friends sweets from the club's tuck shop. However, they do not routinely wash their hands before they eat and do not have access to suitable hand washing facilities. For example, there is no hot, running water available in the basins. This does not help reduce the risk of cross-contamination. In the event that children have an accident at the club, appropriate care can be offered as the first aid box is suitably stocked and one member of staff has a current first aid qualification. However, if that member of staff is absent, there is no contingency plan in place to ensure that a qualified first-aider is present when children are cared for.

Children have access to the school playground and playing fields which ensure that they get plenty of fresh air and physical exercise. They enjoy showing others the latest gymnastic movements they have mastered, climbing on the available equipment and using bouncy balls and skipping ropes.

Children's good dietary health is compromised as the staff do not do enough to promote healthy eating within the club. Although some fruit is generally on offer, the main emphasis is placed on snacks that contain a high amount of sugar such as biscuits, cakes and later in each session, sweets from the tuck shop. This does not ensure that food given to the children is balanced and nutritious. Children are given little encouragement to make healthy choices or learn about the benefits of such choices. This is completely contradictory to the club's food and drink policy which states that the staff will make every effort to promote healthy eating and will lead by example.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is inadequate.

Children's safety is compromised. Although daily health and safety checks are completed, these are filled in inaccurately so do not truly reflect what the club are doing to ensure that children remain safe. For example, checklists state that doors are locked and secure. However, this was not the case on both days of the inspection. A full risk assessment of the indoor and outdoor areas used by the children has not been completed which results in key safety issues not being identified or addressed. The main door to the club remains wide open or unlocked during sessions and the gate at the edge of the playground is not secured whilst children play outside. This means that children are potentially able to leave these areas unsupervised and members of the public are able to wander straight into areas where children play. This poses a potential risk to their safety. Children are learning to keep themselves safe as they practise regular fire drills and are reminded to use resources and furniture appropriately.

Children are cared for in premises which are bright and welcoming, displaying examples of their work, posters and information. They have areas for resting, for example on sofas if they wish to participate in quieter activities after a busy day at school. Children have access to a good range of toys and resources, most of which are stored on low-level units and shelves so that they can independently access them in a safe manner. Staff state that visual risk assessments are conducted on all resources to ensure that they remain suitable for use.

Children's welfare is appropriately safeguarded as staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures. Some staff have already attended training in this area and others are due to in the near future. All documentation is in place to support staff and relevant telephone numbers are predominantly displayed around the setting. This ensures that staff are well equipped to deal with any concerns they may have about children in their care and are able to forward this information on to the correct authorities in order to protect children.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled at the club. They eagerly arrive after school, familiar with routines such as hanging their bags and coats up and selecting those activities that they wish to do. Children benefit from the club's good range of toys and resources, most of which are able to be independently accessed by the children. This means that they can follow their own interests and play ideas which promotes their enjoyment. Children enjoy many art and craft activities and displays within the club demonstrate the children's creativity. Younger children are supported effectively so that they can access all of the activities they choose, for example, creating their own designs using small beads. Staff interact well with the children, supporting and encouraging them as they try new skills such as walking on low-level stilts or swinging across outdoor play equipment. Children comment that they particularly enjoy outdoor play. For example, they are keen to demonstrate new gymnastic moves that they have learnt or to socialise with their friends. Children play well together, taking it in turns to use computer games and during card games. As a result, there is a happy, friendly atmosphere in the club.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs and preferences are respected and children are offered appropriate support to ensure that they are able to participate in the club to the best of their ability. Daily discussions with parents ensure that children are cared for appropriately and any changing needs can be met. Children are beginning to gain a knowledge and understanding of different cultures and beliefs through the use of a satisfactory range of resources and activities that reflect diversity. Children's views are respected, for example as they are consulted about the rules of the club, and have access to questionnaires to offer feedback about the provision.

Staff have some experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and feel confident in supporting children with additional needs to promote inclusion. Clear written rules displayed around the club ensure that children understand what is expected of them as they use the equipment and resources and have consideration for others.

Prospective parents have access to a written prospectus which contains relevant information regarding the club. Specific permissions are obtained from parents for a range of activities which ensure that they are aware of the provision for their children. However, the collection procedure for those children being collected by older but not yet adult-aged siblings has not been fully risk assessed by the club. For example, there is no robust system in place for ensuring that written permission is in place for when this happens. Some staff have a sound understanding of the complaints procedures for the club although the written policy does not contain information about the complaints log which is required to be maintained and accessible for parents. This does not ensure that parents are fully aware of any complaints made about the

club. Parents comment that the staff are nurturing and staff spend quality time with their children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

Appropriate recruitment procedures are in place to ensure that staff looking after children in the club are suitable to do so. However, the manager has failed to ensure that the named deputy has the appropriate knowledge, skills and ability to take full charge in her absence. This impacts on the care and safety of the children. There is no secure induction procedure in place for new staff or ongoing system to monitor the performance, suitability and training needs of all staff. This does not promote staff's professional development or help to monitor and improve the standard of care offered.

The time, space and resources are organised effectively to promote children's fun and enjoyment. However, there is poor organisation of times when children are eating their snack, packed teas from home or sweets purchased at the club. For example, children frequently wander around indoors and outdoors whilst eating. This does not promote good manners and poses a potential risk of choking.

All required documentation is in place and most is up to date. However, actual practice does not reflect many of the written policies and procedures that are in place. This does not promote the safe management of the provision and the welfare and care of children. Overall the provision does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the provider was asked to review the organisation of the play scheme afternoon sessions to ensure that children's individual dietary needs are met. This related to the provision of a snack in the afternoon for those children present all day. This is now offered but issues have been further raised at this inspection in relation to the provision of nutritious snacks and the promotion of healthy options.

The provider was asked to ensure that the emergency escape plan is practised regularly and that written consent for outings is obtained from all parents. Both of these recommendations have been suitably met which promotes the safety of children. The provider was also asked to ensure that robust systems of staff recruitment and communicating staff absence are in place. These are both in place and ensure that children are cared for by suitable staff and that correct levels of staffing are maintained in the event of staff absence.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection, Ofsted received concerns relating to National Standard 1: Suitability, National Standard 12: Working with parents and National Standard 13: Child protection. As a result an inspector made an announced visit to interview the proprietor of the club. The provider had failed to follow the policies and procedures of the club relating to the recording and reporting of incidents and had failed to protect children from the actions of staff and persons not associated with the club. As a result of this visit a compliance action was raised in order for the proprietor to continue to meet the National Standards. The provider 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that snacks and foods provided by the club are nutritious and encourage children to make healthy choices
- improve the organisation of times when children are eating, this relates to packed teas from home, sweets purchased at the club and snack times
- ensure that the premises and outside play space are secure so that children are unable to leave unsupervised and unwanted visitors are unable to access areas where children are playing
- ensure that a risk assessment of the premises and outdoor areas is conducted, that it is reviewed and an action plan with timescales identifies action to be taken to minimise identified risks
- ensure that the named deputy has the appropriate knowledge, skills and ability to take full charge in the absence of the manager
- put in place an effective system of induction for new staff and an ongoing system to monitor performance, suitability and training needs of staff
- ensure that actual practice reflects the written policies and procedures that are in place to promote the safe management of the provision and the welfare and care of children
- take positive steps to promote the good health of children, this relates to ensuring they have appropriate facilities to wash their hands and that hand washing routines are consistently practised.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)