

# Woodham Burn Infants Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY367354

**Inspection date** 27 May 2008

**Inspector** Pauline Pinnegar

**Setting Address** Woodham Burn County Junior School, Humphrey Close, Newton Aycliffe,  
County Durham, DL5 4EX

**Telephone number** 01325 300 080

**E-mail**

**Registered person** Woodham Burn Infants Out of School Club Ltd

**Type of inspection** Childcare

**Type of care** Full day 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Woodham Burn Infants Out of School Club Limited, was originally registered in December 2002 and re-registered in 2008. It operates from a club room with additional use of the halls, computer and community rooms within Woodham Burn Infants School at Newton Aycliffe. Children also have access to secure outdoor play areas. Children attend from the school and other schools within the local area.

A maximum of 40 children may attend the provision at any one time. The group is open each weekday from 07.45 to 09.00 and 15.15 to 18.00 during school term time. It provides care during school holidays from 07.45 to 18.00. There are currently 30 children aged from three years to under eight years on roll. In addition, there are 50 children over eight years on roll. The group currently supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. There are seven members of staff working with the children. All of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. They spontaneously implement good hygiene practices which help to keep them healthy, for example, by washing their hands before they have snack and after using the toilet. As part of activity planning, children have made their own posters as helpful reminders relating to hand-washing. These are displayed in the bathroom area. Children are protected from illness and infection as staff follow effective hygiene routines, and parents are clearly informed about exclusion of children who are ill or infectious. Arrangements for first aid and administering medication fully protects children. There is always a qualified first aider at the club.

Children learn to express and manage their own needs very well. For example, they are at ease in the club environment and are able to relax quietly at the end of the school day if they are tired. They are confident to express their views and wishes about activities and know they will receive support from staff if they need it. Children's physical development is very well supported with opportunities to use the outdoor equipment in all weathers. A large gazebo protects children from bad weather elements enabling them to access fresh air at all times. Their large physical skills are promoted through use of a wide range of large and small outdoor equipment, including climbing equipment, basket balls, tyres, sand and water. Children participate in regular team games, such as hockey and football to promote their physical development. Indoors children use a range of construction materials, tunnels and snooker tables. They like to construct their own climbing apparatus with the equipment available.

Parent's wishes are considered so that children's individual health and dietary needs are met. Children help to prepare snacks with staff, for example fruit kebabs, bread and healthy pizza. They prepare 'wraps' at teatime using a range of healthy fillings, pitta and wholemeal bread. They suggest their own ideas for teatime menus. Fresh fruit is routinely offered so that children can choose a healthy option. Children explore activities linked to healthy eating. They recently took part in 'World Health Day' discussing both healthy and unhealthy foods. This topic was extended further when children went to visit a local farm to find out where their food comes from. Children sit together to eat so that meal times are relaxed and sociable. They can access water independently throughout the session and have a choice of fruit juice or milk for snack.

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

The provision is good.

Children are safely cared for in a safe, bright, colourful and well organised environment. There is a soft furnished area so that children can relax if they wish. The resources are in good condition to ensure children play with safe toys. They are stored in attractively labelled see-through storage boxes on open shelves and in low-level drawers, which encourages children to make choices in their play. Staff check the premises each day and refer any issues of concern to the head teacher. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Staff are deployed effectively to ensure safe supervision of children both indoors and out. There are clear systems in place to ensure children are collected only by authorised people. Arrangements for the collection of children from classrooms and other schools are age appropriate, and staff liaise with teachers to share relevant information. There is a clear policy in place for outings with effective risk assessments completed, prior to each trip.

Children are confident to make any concerns known; they are confident to seek staff support to negotiate difficulties, which enables them to feel safe and secure in the club. There is a clear health and safety statement in place. Staff give priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe. For example, they explore topics, such as safety when riding bicycles, safe handling of dogs within the home and the community. Children also help to develop safety procedures within the club, for example, the rules which need to be applied when playing in the school hall and safe use of equipment. There is appropriate fire safety equipment in place which is tested regularly and a regular fire drill is practised with children. This ensures they remain safe in the event of an emergency.

Staff give high priority to protecting and safeguarding children. Some staff have attended training to improve their knowledge and skills. Required child protection procedures are in place and are implemented effectively, for example, any concerns are shared quickly with parents, where appropriate, and clear records are kept. However, the child protection policy does not include contact details of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Children confidently make any worries known, for example, they seek staff support to negotiate difficulties, enabling them to feel safe and secure in the club.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit positively in this area because they are very well supported and cared for by a good staff team, who are extremely cheerful and enthusiastic in their approach. Children are evidently very settled and at home in their surroundings and they receive frequent praise and encouragement. This results in high levels of confidence and self-esteem. Children enjoy attending the club and talk very positively about what they like doing. They enjoy a broad and balanced range of play opportunities at each session. Staff are deployed very effectively to support children's play and there is a good balance between adult-led and child-initiated activities. Staff know children very well and respond sensitively to support their individual needs. Children enjoy interesting and varied daily experiences; activity planning is used flexibly to enable staff to be very responsive to children's ideas and suggestions. The range of resources available is very broad and interesting and easily accessible to promote children's independence. Children negotiate what they want to do in shared games and have a good understanding of acceptable, cooperative behaviour. They play together harmoniously for example when making a 'dam' with tubes and pipes outdoors, and when using large construction equipment. Children's behaviour is good and they enjoy warm and relaxed relationships with staff.

Children have high self-esteem and share lots of conversation about their interests and home activities with lively enthusiasm. Children show great interest in what they do, for example, they carefully handle tiny beads and skilfully create intricate patterns as they make jewellery, such as necklaces and bracelets. Planning reflects children's interests so that children engage in their chosen activities with energy. Children have lots of planned opportunities to be creative, and recently explored art through 'still life' media, painting their own version of Van Gough's 'Sunflower' painting. Other planned activities include opportunities for children to explore 'creative binca', tapestry, wax models and glass painting. Older children thoroughly enjoy taking part in competitions with their efforts published in books.

Children also take part in a wealth of exciting and interesting outings. They have been on visits to the local animal rescue centre, nature park and reserve. They also explore the local environment as they visit the local library and pet shop. Regular visitors to the group include 'Animal Zoo'. Children had lots of fun interacting with animals, such as cockerels, guinea pigs,

snakes and cockroaches. During the visit to the farm children also had opportunities to see animals first hand, such as Llamas, highland cattle and opportunities to observe farm machinery and equipment.

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

The provision is good.

Children are warmly welcomed by familiar staff who are always on hand to offer support and reassurance. This contributes to children feeling secure and content within the group and developing self confidence. They know that they are valued as staff listen to what they say and ask questions about their experiences and interests. They are encouraged to share information about their own likes and dislikes, favourite foods, and contribute to activity planning and ideas for outings. Children's views are regularly sought as they complete written evaluations following outings. Children enjoy lots of lively conversations with staff, sharing news and views. Relationships are relaxed and friendly. Children's awareness of diversity is raised through playing with a wide variety of resources which reflect cultural differences. They participate in planned activities and celebrations, such as Chinese New Year, when they helped prepare the food for the Chinese banquet. 'Easter around the World' has also been explored in depth with children. At the anniversary of the club's opening children arranged their own celebration party deciding which food they would have. They prepared cakes and made presents for everyone. Clear procedures are in place for the care of children with learning difficulties and disabilities. The setting promotes inclusive care and all children are welcomed.

Children understand responsible behaviour and are fully able to distinguish between right and wrong. For example, they have devised their own rules for the club and regularly refer to these when necessary. Their behaviour is good and staff implement entirely appropriate strategies, such as providing sound explanations. High priority is given to promoting good table manners and encouraging a culture of respect for others. Staff are good role models for children; they are calm, polite and use consistent methods for behaviour management. Lots of praise is given freely to children to ensure that they develop confidence and self-esteem and understand what they have done well.

The provision establishes good partnerships with parents and carers. This helps to promote children's well-being, development and progress. Parents feel comfortable in the provision and approach staff readily to discuss their children. Relationships are relaxed and friendly. Staff talk through policies and procedures with parents before children start at the club, so that they are aware of record keeping requirements, how behaviour is managed and how to raise any concerns. However, the complaints procedure does not include Ofsted's full contact details. Parents also receive informative newsletters on a regular basis.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The club is well organised to ensure children's welfare and safety. Space is used appropriately to cater for the children's play needs. Children are able to move around confidently and independently. They feel at home and at ease in the environment; this means they are confident in their play. Daily routines are clearly planned and flexibly implemented, to respond to children's varying needs and interests. Staff are deployed effectively to ensure children's well-being. They liaise closely with the school to maintain good working relationships. Staff regularly evaluate their own practice appropriately to enhance children's experiences. Training and development

needs are clearly identified by regular staff appraisal, and access to training opportunities is well planned. Staff demonstrate a strong commitment to continual improvement and a high regard for the well-being of all children, which impacts positively on the high level of care that they provide.

Effective induction procedures help to ensure that the comprehensive policies and procedures are consistently applied, so that children's welfare is safeguarded. Staff are appropriately vetted and have suitable skills and experience to work with children. All required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place. It is easily accessible and stored securely. However, the visitors record is not completed consistently. Parents' wishes regarding their child's care influence day-to-day practice and clear written agreements are recorded.

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 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):

- review the child protection policy to ensure it includes contact details for the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- include full contact details of the regulator in the complaints procedure
- ensure the record of visitors is completed consistently.

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)