

Ducklings Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY136809
Inspection date	14 July 2008
Inspector	Christine Powlesland
Setting Address	Stoke Climsland School, Stoke Climsland, CALLINGTON, Cornwall, PL17 8ND
Telephone number	07813 929171
E-mail	
Registered person	Ducklings Venterdon Pre-School
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?

Ducklings Out of School Club has been registered since 2002. It operates from a hall in the primary school which is situated in the village of Stoke Climsland. The setting is one of two, the other being a pre-school group, which is run by a committee of parents and interested others and serves the local area. There are currently 65 children from four years to 11 years on roll. Children attend a variety of sessions. The setting can meet the needs of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The group opens Monday to Friday from 15.00 to 18.00 during term time only.

The setting employs five members of staff to work with the children, of these, three hold Level 3 qualifications and two are working towards a Level 2 qualification. The setting are members of 4Kids.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in a bright and clean environment. They learn about hygiene through established daily routines. For example, they wash their hands carefully before snack time to help reduce the risk of cross contamination and help them remain healthy.

Children have easy access to a fresh water dispenser throughout the session and the older children help the younger ones to fill cups from the machine. Children choose when they wish to eat a snack from a selection of healthy foods provided on the snack table. A staff member offers the choice of wraps, bread, crackers or bread sticks with ham, cheese, cucumber or Marmite. Fromage frais, apples, boxes of raisins and juice are also provided. Children do not always have the opportunity to make their own sandwiches, as the butter is spread for them and their choice of filling cut and placed in the wrap by staff members.

Usually children enjoy daily access to a good-sized outdoor play area. Unfortunately, on the day of inspection this was undergoing renovation and children were not able to play outside. However, it is expected to be completed before the end of the week when children will be able to use it freely. Photographs show children previously building with large construction resources in this area. Children develop their physical skills as they take part in a 'chicken limbo' activity, giggling delightedly as they find different ways of getting underneath the bar. They gain fine muscle control as they use scissors to cut paper into patterns to make snowflakes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in a secure environment. Entrance doors to both the school and the hall area are locked and there is a barrier between the out of school club and the rest of the school to prevent unauthorised access, ensuring children's safety and security. Staff complete daily risk assessment checklists to ensure all areas of the setting are safe and secure. Children use floor mats for games but there is not always a quiet comfortable space for children to rest as floor cushions are not always provided. The playroom is well laid out, allowing children to move comfortably and safely within it.

Children access a selection of toys and equipment all of which are in good condition and suitable for the ages of the children attending. However, these are stored in an adjacent cupboard and children are not able to self select freely although they can ask staff for other activities if they wish.

The provider has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is being safeguarded and promoted. However, there is inconsistency in signing by parents to acknowledge they are aware of incidents and accidents which have occurred. Fire drills are held each month and these are recorded. However, not all children are aware of the procedure they should follow in the event of a fire taking place.

Children's safety is supported by the staff having an adequate understanding of the child protection procedure. They are aware of the agencies to contact if concerned about a child at the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children appear very settled, confident and happy in the provision. They are cared for by warm and caring staff who show genuine affection for the children and their well-being. Children enjoy the activities provided. The range of toys and resources provided each day is limited with no imaginative play or books available for the younger children at the inspection. However, photographs show children dressing up, junk modelling and playing with large outdoor construction. Older children choose to sit on high platforms and play handheld computer games brought from home, whilst younger children choose to thread beads to make a necklace. Staff lead an activity of cutting and gluing and the children enjoy this, making snowflakes which they cut from white paper and then glue onto coloured backing. Children are busy throughout the session; a group of four children share the television computer game together. Children are supported by the staff who know them very well. Sessions are organised so that children experience free play and some adult led activities. Staff spend their time playing with the children, for example, they share a jigsaw game together on a floor mat.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed into the provision. Some children's work is on display to help the children feel valued and part of the setting. However, children do not always know who is present as staff do not introduce visitors to them. Children learn to respect each other's differences and make allowances for their less able peers. The setting provides care for children with both physical and learning difficulties. Staff have an extremely good understanding of how to meet children's individual needs and therefore these needs are met well.

All children's behaviour is good. Staff have a calm approach to the children and show them respect and this is reciprocated. Children learn about other countries as they play together constructing a jigsaw of the flags of Europe, using a map for reference. A collage made by the children of the city of New York is displayed.

Parents speak highly of the provision and feel their children are well cared for. Daily conversations with staff help them keep up-to-date and staff also pass on messages from the school to parents, to provide continuity of care for the children. A parents' notice board is used to keep them up-to-date with information. Some children bring in toys from home and share these with others, providing a valuable link between the setting and their home environment.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children walk into a welcoming, organised and inviting environment at the end of their school day. They receive good support from staff, which promotes their confidence to move around and choose from the available activities. All required documents are in place. However, some need to be reviewed to update them. For example, the address and telephone number details for one member of staff looking after children needed to be completed during the inspection.

Three staff have early years qualifications and two are working towards a qualification. They are aware of the need to have staff qualified in play work. Both staff members and the committee are keen to improve and develop the provision. Staff are deployed appropriately during the session and show a good awareness of their roles and responsibilities. Staff appraisals are used

to identify training and other issues. Staff members also run the local pre-school group which gives continuity of care for children who attend the out of school as they know the majority of children extremely well. Overall, the setting meets 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 ensure effective procedures were in place for un-vetted persons and checking staff were suitable to work with children. This has been met with a written procedure which is followed closely to ensure suitability of adults and safety for children.

They were to meet qualification requirements and clarify the staffing structure. Policies now include a clear diagram of the staffing structure and training continues to be ongoing, improving the care for children.

They were to provide a suitable range of equipment meeting the needs of the ages of children attending, including resources reflecting a positive view of the wider world. The setting has begun to consider these issues, bringing down items from the pre-school for the younger children. However, this continues to be an area to be further developed, including a wider range of resources showing differing lifestyles.

They were to consider risks in the outside play area and any children leaving the premises unsupervised. The outside play area is currently under reconstruction and will be used only by out of school children when the club is running, with the high gate secured to prevent unauthorised access or exit. Children only play outdoors when three staff are present to ensure children are competently supervised and safe in the indoor and garden areas.

The setting was asked to ensure the child protection procedure complied with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. They were required to update staff knowledge of child protection issues. Staff now have an adequate understanding of their roles and responsibilities, including confidentiality, in managing child protection issues. However, the newly written policy contains out of date information and remains an area for improvement.

They were asked to improve their knowledge of the regulations and notify Ofsted of relevant matters including changes to staff or committee. A list of committee members is now available as is a list of the current five members of staff. They are aware of the need to inform Ofsted of any changes which may affect care for the children.

Records were to be accurate, up-to-date and readily accessible. Public liability insurance is now displayed. Staff and child registers show arrival and departure times in detail. Records are stored in the nearby pre-school but can be brought down to the out of school provision as required. Staff contact details were not complete but this was rectified during the inspection visit. These measures help ensure children are cared for in a safe environment.

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):

- ensure that all records concerning accidents, incidents and the administering of medication are countersigned by parents
- improve fire safety by ensuring all children are aware of the procedures to be followed in an emergency
- provide a space where children can rest safely without disturbance, equipped with appropriate furniture.

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