

Lamesley Childcare at St Andrews Church

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY360616
Inspection date	13 August 2008
Inspector	Jayne Utting
Setting Address	Lamesley Childcare, St. Andrews Church Hall, Lamesley, GATESHEAD, Tyne and Wear, NE11 0EU
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Registered person	Lamesley 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?

Lamesley Childcare is run by a limited company with charitable status. It opened in 1996 and operates from the two main rooms of St Andrew's Church Hall. It is situated in the centre of Lamesley. A maximum of 52 children may attend the provision at any one time and there are currently 35 children on roll. During school holidays it is open from 08.00 until 18.00. The provision employs nine staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications and three are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where they begin to learn about the importance of good hygiene and personal care throughout their daily routine. They willingly help to clean tables before snack and know to wash their hands before meals, after playing outside and visiting the toilet. Children are well protected from the spread of cross infection due to staff's vigilance and well maintained procedures for cleaning. For example, staff wash their hands before preparing food and have completed a relevant food hygiene

course. Staff hold valid first aid certificates and the effective recording of all accidents and emergency contacts promotes children's health and well-being. Medication consent forms are in place; however, these are not always stored confidentially to protect children's identity.

Outdoor play is a central feature of the provision and there are good opportunities provided for children to be active or rest according to their individual needs. Children have access to a secure outside area where they enjoy activities such as football, running, bouncing on space hoppers, building dens and playing with bats and balls. In addition, children have the opportunity to try out some exciting new activities during holiday club including athletics, football and dancing. These are carried out by appropriately qualified instructors and are thoroughly enjoyed by all children who take part enthusiastically. All staff acknowledge the benefits children obtain from frequent access to fresh air and regular exercise to support their physical development. Children are encouraged to make full use of the resources and activities provided and to test their capabilities within a safe and supportive environment. Staff commitment to the promotion of physical activity helps children to keep fit and to learn that exercise is lots of fun.

Staff actively promote healthy eating ensuring that children receive a range of snacks that are healthy and well balanced, including lots of fresh fruit. Older children help to prepare and serve food, helping to encourage independence skills. Staff and parents discuss any specific dietary requirements a child may have whether for religious, cultural or medical reasons and the relevant information is recorded. This helps to foster good partnerships with parents and ensures their wishes are met. Children have free access to drinks throughout the session and are offered suitable drinks such as milk and water.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where they are supervised closely by staff at all times. This enables the children to move freely and independently, protecting them from injury or accidents. Children are well protected because the setting has effective safety procedures which are understood and implemented by all staff. The arrival and collection of children is well planned and staff have an up to date record of persons with permission to collect children.

Internally many safety measures have been taken with smoke alarms and socket covers in place. Staff are vigilant regarding safety and effectively implement procedures to minimise risks. For example, staff complete a daily assessment of the facilities and resources, prior to the children's arrival. Electrical and fire safety equipment is regularly checked by the provider and kept in a safe condition and there are good fire safety procedures in place with up to date records of practice evacuations. The club deploys effective safety procedures on outings including maintaining ratios, carrying a mobile phone and emergency contact details as well as taking appropriate equipment including drinks, snacks, sun creams and a first aid kit as necessary. Written consent from parents is obtained prior to any outing. This helps to safeguard children.

Children are also encouraged to develop an awareness of the need to preserve their own well being and that of their friends. For example, children are encouraged to tidy up during the sessions.

Children are well protected by staff who are confident and secure in their knowledge of child protection policies and procedures. This is reinforced through a clear written policy and ongoing staff training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Staff actively seek the views of the children when planning activities which give them a sense of belonging and ownership. As such children are fully engrossed in an extensive variety of activities, which contribute to their imaginative, physical, creative, and language skills such as role-play, drawing, construction, IT, ceramics, baking, painting glass, metal work, woodwork and nature rambles. Children thoroughly enjoyed designing and painting glass window decorations and proudly show off their finished creations to much praise and encouragement. They also have great fun playing dens together as well as rehearsing for a group dance production of Thriller.

The children also enjoy a variety of trips away from the setting. These are purposeful, promote their learning and development and are planned around the children's interests. For example, they learn about animals at the farm and local history at Vindolanda, by Hadrian's Wall.

Children's independence and confidence are promoted very well. They select freely from well organised resources and are guided by staff to extend their learning. As such, they enjoy sensitive and caring relationships with staff who know them well and inspire them with their own enthusiasm.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the staff's positive attitude towards equal opportunities and respecting individual and differing needs. There are good opportunities provided for children to learn about their local community and the wider world through a variety of planned activities, play materials and spontaneous discussions. Children are able to gain an awareness of different cultures as they participate in a range of celebrations including Chinese New Year and Diwali. Children recently completed a 'week around the world' project where they learnt about different countries, their language and culture. Staff aim to ensure that activities within the club reflect the culture and background of all children who attend. Children have access to a range of multi-cultural toys, books and images that reflect positive non-stereotypical roles, racial and cultural diversity and disability. Staff work hard to ensure that the individual needs of all children are met and that they are cared for in a consistent and appropriate manner, collecting good comprehensive information from parents in order to achieve this.

The club is proactive in its approach to working with children with learning disabilities and difficulties. Staff work closely with families and appropriate agencies, show a good understanding of this area and are happy to undertake additional training as required.

Staff are calm, competent and good role models. They have realistic expectations of children's behaviour and implement a range of good strategies to promote positive behaviour and help children to learn right from wrong. Children respond well to meaningful praise and encouragement, all of which contributes to the development of their social skills, confidence and self-esteem. For example, they help tidy up, share toys and resources, and help one another. Children are polite, well behaved and enthusiastic to take part. They are encouraged by staff to take an active role in club life, sharing their ideas for activities and outings and devising rules for the club.

Staff have developed positive relationships with parents and pass on information about what children have been doing at the club that day. They encourage children to take work home and to talk about the activities they have undertaken. A range of information is displayed for parents on the notice board ensuring they are well informed about the setting, planned activities and the care and welfare of their children. However, whilst a comprehensive complaints procedure is in place, it does not include Ofsted's address. This makes it difficult for people to contact the regulator should they wish to.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for by an experienced, dedicated and trained staff team. Committed to ongoing personal development, all staff have undertaken a number of recent courses including first aid, food hygiene and manual handling. All staff are subject to appropriate recruitment, vetting and induction procedures. This ensures that they are aware of their roles and responsibilities, and confirms their suitability to work with children.

All required records and policies are in place and up to date and these are maintained in a confidential manner. In addition, important documents, such as the registration certificate and public liability certificates are displayed prominently for parents and visitors to see.

Staff take a professional approach to their work. Committed to the children in their care, they are fully involved in their play and have developed secure relationships with them, ensuring they feel safe and comfortable within the group. Staff use their time and resources appropriately, ensuring they remain focussed on the children throughout their time in the club.

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):

- ensure medical consent forms are maintained confidentially at all times
- update complaints procedure to include address of the regulator.

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