



Lindees

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY239836
Inspection date	11 August 2005
Inspector	Hilary Preece

Setting Address	Townsend Drive, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 5RP
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Registered person	Lynn Goss
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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?

Lindees opened in 2002. It offers an after school club and holiday club. These facilities operate from Batchwood School in St Albans and are available to the general public. The after school club runs Monday to Friday term time only, from 15:15 to 18:15 and also provides care on school inset days. The club serves a large number of schools in St Albans where children are taken to the club by car, minibus or by 'walkers'. The holiday club runs daily from 08:45 to 18:15. Children may attend for a full day or a morning or afternoon session.

The clubs are registered for 40 children aged from 5 to 8 years, although they are

able to cater for children up to the age of 11 years. The club is able to support children with special needs and those who have English as an additional language.

The club employs five staff. Four of these staff, including the managers, hold appropriate early years qualifications. Other staff have attended relevant training sessions and workshops.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy physical exercise and learn about the importance of activity as they join in organised and free play games. They take part in football and dance workshops and enjoy group activities such as 'parachute' games. They can help themselves to drinks whenever they are thirsty and rest when tired. Children have many opportunities to learn about healthy eating through planned activities such as food tasting and a visit by a supermarket to promote healthy foods. Children at the holiday club benefit from a hot, cooked lunch and children after school receive a snack tea. However, some children choose the less nourishing options for lunch and snack which means they do not always receive a balanced diet.

Children clearly understand the importance of hygiene routines because these are regularly reinforced by staff. Children know that by washing their hands before meals and taking their shoes off inside helps prevent the spread of germs. They are independent in their self care routines. Children's health within the club is supported by robust health and hygiene procedures. However, some staff do not have up to date first aid training which could compromise children's health. The setting has taken steps to ensure all staff update their skills by the end of the year.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe and secure environment with an excellent range of well maintained equipment. Children are protected from potential harm because staff carry out thorough risk assessments, particularly when planning outings. Children learn to keep themselves safe because there are well implemented routines that reinforce safety. They protect themselves from the sun by applying cream and wearing sun hats. They understand they must not run on wet ground and know what to do in the event of a fire. Children learn about safety in practical and fun ways. For example, they learn how to cross roads safely and are aware of stranger dangers through visits by the local police. Children's welfare is fully safeguarded because all staff have a clear understanding of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy and talk about their club with pride. They eagerly participate in whatever they choose to do. Some choose to play group games whilst others prefer quiet individual activities. Staff ensure that children are purposefully engaged in their chosen play at all times. Children use their initiative and show independence when selecting resources. They make very positive relationships with their peers and staff.

Children explore a tremendous range of stimulating activities. Their play is enriched with learning opportunities because staff thoughtfully plan topics and themes. Children at the holiday club learn about transport, countries and cultures through their topic of 'Around the world in 25 days'. They enthusiastically play a Spanish game of panyata and book holidays in their own 'travel agency'. Children show a great love of creative activities and acquire new skills such as clay modelling, woodwork and papier mache. Children at the holiday club have opportunities to go on valuable outings that are both fun and educational. They visit the seaside, the London Aquarium, a steam railway and go bowling regularly.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed and their needs are met because staff respect their individuality and family context. Their behaviour is very good. They understand rules and boundaries as these are reinforced daily. Children show respect for staff and each other. Staff expertly divert unwanted behaviour. New children are made to feel particularly welcome and older children help look after the younger ones. Children play a dynamic role in the club. They have their own children's committee in which they share ideas and plan what they want to do. This is fully supported by staff who listen to and value children's views. This helps to promote a strong sense of belonging.

Children gain an excellent awareness of the wider world and the needs of others through topics and fund raising activities. For example, the club sponsors a Vietnamese child. They exchange letters and have a photo of the child displayed on their board. They also raise funds through cake sales for children less fortunate than themselves.

There is a particularly strong partnership with parents and schools that ensures all work together to meet children's needs. Staff offer very flexible care to fit around individual needs. Children with special needs receive high quality care because staff ensure they are suitably qualified.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children and their families are welcomed to the setting and quickly feel at ease due to the well organised environment. Their care is enhanced by efficient and effective organisation. Knowledgeable practitioners fully understand and follow the setting's

comprehensive policies and procedures to promote children's well-being. Staff now understand the procedure for notifying Ofsted of significant events such as serious accidents. All staff are suitably qualified and vetted and there are sound induction procedures in place. They work well as a team and generally have clear roles and responsibilities. They will now review how staff are deployed to ensure ratios of staff to children are met in unforeseen circumstances. Overall the provision meets very well the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no areas for improvement at the last inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- extend the healthy eating programme so that children understand the importance of good nutrition.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk