



Vanguard Out of School Care

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 309794 |
| Inspection date | 28 November 2005 |
| Inspector | Debra, Elizabeth Mitcheson |
| Setting Address | 65 Bevington Close, Burnley, Lancashire, BB11 4SD |
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| Registered person | Burnley Play Association (BPA) |
| 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?

Vanguard Out of School Club opened in 1998. It is registered with Burnley Play Association and operates in the Vanguard Community Centre, close to Burnley town centre. The building is single storey and is purpose built for the local community. The group have access to the large community hall, craft room, quiet room, kitchen facilities, toilet facilities, office and a large outdoor park area.

There are currently 40 children from 5 to 17 years on roll. Places are funded through the National Health Service. Children attend for a variety of sessions dependent on needs.

The group opens during school holiday periods which includes Easter and Summer. The sessions are Monday to Friday from 07.30 to 18.00. Children attend morning/afternoon sessions or full days. Sessions are also available for children to attend during term time on a Monday evening from 18.00 to 20.00 and Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 12 noon.

All staff are employed through Burnley Play Association and work part-time sessions. There are three play leaders who manage the day to day routines; they all have relevant childcare qualifications. A supply list of workers is managed through the association. Over half the staff are working towards early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from the spread of infection at this setting because the staff implement effective hygiene practices. These include contract cleaners carrying out heavy domestic chores and staff following a daily, rigorous cleaning routine. Children have a high level of awareness of personal hygiene and understand why this is important; for example, the majority of children access the bathroom independently, flushing the toilet and attending to their personal needs.

Staff are fully committed in encouraging children to develop a sound knowledge and understanding of healthy living. Purposeful resources are provided to support this area of learning; health and dietary information is displayed around the setting. Children participate, with enthusiasm, in projects such as 'Burnley Exercise on Prescription' (BEEP), 'smile for life', '5 a day' and a food nutrition programme run by the Health Council.

Children's growth and physical development is supported by their access to a broad range of activities that provide good levels of challenge and are appropriate for their age and ability, which contributes to them being healthy. Children delight in team games, such as quick cricket, hockey and 'who's the detective', where they shout, scream and squeal in anticipation of who will be the winner.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, safe and secure environment where risks are identified and minimised. The setting is welcoming to children with attractive displays in all areas, including an international welcome poster and multi cultural visual aids in the craft room. Clear instructions are shared with the children in playing safely in the hall, whilst participating in robust physical activities to develop their understanding of how to keep themselves safe. This is reinforced by older children practicing safe operations at the setting as they participate as 'session helpers'.

All areas of the setting are creatively arranged to allow children to move independently and spontaneously amongst all areas of play and learning. Staff and children ensure the safety of all, including those with special needs, without inhibiting their risk taking. For example, children in wheelchairs are actively encouraged and observed to thoroughly enjoy their participation in quick cricket and hockey.

Most aspects of protecting children are promoted well by the staff team, who understand their roles in relation to child protection issues. However, all staff need to have a clear understanding of the action to follow with regards to allegations made against a fellow member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem. This is because of the warm and caring relationships they have with a staff team and volunteers who are committed to providing a relaxed, learning environment for the children in attendance. They communicate easily with each other and this enables children to make steady progress as they enjoy and achieve. All children separate readily from their parents; they are pleased to be in attendance. They cannot wait to take off their coats and get involved in the evening's activities.

The staff have a sound understanding of how children learn and progress. This knowledge, observations of the children's development and the children's ideas are used to provide a wide range of activities and experiences to meet their individual needs. Children engage well in their choice of activities; these include craft activities such as making Christmas decorations, small discussion groups, quick cricket, hockey and 'shout and shoot' physical activities. A room with soft furnishings is also available for quiet times, one to one support and rest if required.

All children are making steady progress in their physical, intellectual, emotional and social areas of development because the staff provide purposeful activities, resources and space to support their learning whilst having fun. For example, children enjoy using their imaginations in role play, where they demonstrate a clear understanding of acceptable behaviour. Children are making the distinction between right and wrong, as they remind the younger ones to step down from the chairs as they climb.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are highly valued as individuals at this setting. There are effective arrangements in place for all children, including those with special educational needs. These include access to a disabled toilet and staff with specific training to provide appropriate and inclusive care for all. Children's caring attitudes to others are fostered because staff are positive role models for children in their care. They are calm, consistent and polite. Praise and explanation is given freely to children which

ensure that they develop confidence and self esteem. Children delight as they are praised for their efforts during team games and when managing scissor control in craft activities.

The inclusion of all children is paramount and is evident at this setting. Children work harmoniously together with the support of an experienced staff team, who implement good practice in accordance with the setting's policies and procedures. Parents explain that their children are eager to attend the setting and compliment the caring and supportive staff. Information is shared with them at the end of each session and they are fully aware of how to raise any issues regarding their children's welfare with staff.

Children have a strong sense of belonging. They are acknowledged and their ideas are recognised. They are responded to positively by staff and their peers; for example, children put forward their suggestions for the setting's Christmas party and the 'session helpers' respond well to younger children asking for help. Children's knowledge and understanding of their community and wider society is encouraged by celebrating festivals and accessing a broad range of resources, play opportunities and activities, which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. Children talk about their experiences of sponsoring children less fortunate than themselves in other countries. They also welcome the opportunity to discuss their values and feelings which are encouraged by the use of teaching aids, such as 'the wrap around'.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel secure and settled within this setting. They are cared for by staff with good organisational skills. They have a sound knowledge and understanding of child development and special needs which positively effects the welfare and development of the children in their care. Deployment of staff and effective use of policies and procedures promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution to this setting.

Comprehensive policies and practices are a high priority of the organisation. The majority have been revised in relation to the new regulations and aim to provide the safe management of the setting; for example, behaviour and risk assessments. However, staff also need to have a clear understanding of the full content of them; for example, robust vetting procedures in line with recent changes in requirements.

Documentation is appropriately shared and confidentiality is acknowledged and maintained. The staff are aware of notifying Ofsted of any significant changes or events at this setting. This ensures that children continue to receive good childcare provision, within a safe environment and where the staff who care for these children continues to be suitable to do so. Overall, the setting is good at promoting all outcomes and meeting the needs of all children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous Children Act inspection there were three recommendations relating to the recording of fire drills, risk assessments, key worker systems and informing parents of operational procedures at this setting.

Fire drills are now carried out every month and recorded accordingly, which actively maintains the safety of the children. Children's overall needs continue to be met as key workers have been appointed for children with special needs. Organisational procedures are now displayed. These inform parents how the staff at the setting aim to meet the individual needs of their children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 that all staff are fully informed about the procedures to be followed in relation to the setting's policies, with particular reference to robust vetting/recruitment procedures and allegations made against staff members.

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