

Skools Out Ltd

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	312362
Inspection date	16/12/2008
Inspector	Patricia Graham
Setting address	Roughtown Road, Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, OL5 0SG
Telephone number	01457 832 361
Email	
Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the setting

Skools Out Ltd registered in 1999. The club operates from four rooms based in a community centre. It is situated in the Mossley area of Tameside. Access to the club is via steps at the front or a ramp to the rear of the premises.

The club is open each weekday from 07.30 to 08.55 and 15.15 to 18.15 during term times and 07.30 to 18.15 during school holidays. It is closed for Christmas and bank holidays. The club is registered for 30 children in the early years age range. The club also offers places for children older than the early years age range: this provision is registered on the Childcare Register. There are currently 36 children, in the early years age range, on roll.

There are 13 members of staff, five of whom hold childcare qualifications, and three are completing training to achieve a level 3 childcare qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The club promotes some aspects of children's welfare adequately as children are safe and secure. However, some welfare requirements are not sufficiently met to ensure children's well-being. Children are generally happy and enjoy their time at the club, however, insufficient knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) learning and development requirements means individual needs are not sufficiently met. In addition to this, systems are not yet developed to evaluate the quality of the provision as the provider does not identify key areas for improvement. This impacts on children's care, learning and well-being.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- ensure a named deputy, who is able to take charge in the absence of the manager, is in place (Suitable people) 30/12/2008
- ensure the requirements are met for adult:child ratios set out in Appendix 2 of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (Suitable people) 30/12/2008
- ensure at least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate is with children on outings and on the premises at all times when children are present (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 30/12/2008

- ensure systems are in place to plan and organise the day to ensure every child receives an enjoyable and challenging learning and development experience that is tailored to meet their individual needs and improve knowledge of the EYFS learning and development requirements. (Organisation)

30/12/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Adequate arrangements are in place to ensure children are safeguarded. Staff have a sound understanding of child protection issues and the designated person is aware of her responsibility to liaise with appropriate agencies if concerns arise. Clear risk assessments ensure potential hazards are minimised and systems are in place to ensure the safe collection of children. This promotes children's safety.

Positive relationships are formed with parents, which benefits children. Parents are provided with relevant information relating to policies and procedures and staff take time to seek details, such as children's dietary requirements. However, partnership working is not extended to other settings that children attend. This impacts on their learning and development needs as continuity of care is not established.

Systems for self-evaluation are not effective. The provider has not identified key weaknesses in the provision and she is not aware of the legal requirements of the EYFS. For example, a named deputy is not in place to take charge in the absence of the manager and the organisation of staff does not ensure the required ratios of qualified staff are on duty when children are present. In addition to this, the provider does not deploy staff effectively to ensure at least one person with a relevant first aid certificate is present at all times. This compromises children's well-being.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are generally happy and settled at the club. They take part in some activities, which are pre-set by staff. For example, they colour pictures and play with board games. At other times children relax on the comfortable seating chatting to their friends as they watch a video. Children have opportunities to develop their physical skills as they partake in ball games and group activities in the hall. However, staff are not aware of the learning and development requirements. They do not build on children's unique abilities as observations are not undertaken and they do not work in partnership with other settings children attend. Consequently, they are unable to plan for individual needs.

Suitable hygiene measures are in place, which promotes children's health and hygiene. The setting is clean and well maintained and well stocked bathrooms enable children to be independent with their personal care. Children enjoy healthy meals and snacks, such as cereals and toast for breakfast. They learn to keep

themselves safe as they practise fire drills and talk about hazards on route to school. For example, they know to 'walk on the pavement and not near the kerb' and why they need to wear florescent jackets: 'because the cars can see us when we are crossing the road'. This positively promotes children's safety.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	4
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	4
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	4
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	4
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	4

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR1) 30/12/2008
- ensure that at least one person has successfully completed a qualification at a minimum of a level 2 in an area of work relevant to the childcare. (CR4) 30/12/2008

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR1) 30/12/2008
- take action as specified in the compulsory Childcare Register section of the report (CR4) 30/12/2008

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.