

St Julie's Care Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	502601
Inspection date	09/10/2008
Inspector	Chris Scully
Setting address	St Julie's Church Hall, Howard's Lane, Eccleston, St. Helens, Merseyside, WA10 5HJ
Telephone number	07949 497 011
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

St Julie's Care Club registered in 2001. It is managed by a parent led management committee and is set in the Eccleston area of St. Helens. The provision operates from two rooms within St Julie's church hall, the school hall and the Information and Communication Technology suite in St Julie's School. A maximum of 32 children may attend at any one time. The provision operates a breakfast club from 07.45 to 08.50 and after school club from 15.15 to 17.45 all week during term time. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area. The setting is registered to care for children on the Early Years Register, compulsory part of the Childcare Register and voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

There are currently 19 children on roll in the early years age group and 103 children in the later years age group. Children attend various sessions throughout the week. The provision serves the children who attend St Julie's School. The setting is able to support children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

The provision employs three staff; all staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is completing an additional level 3 qualification and one staff member has a degree in English.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The knowledge of children's individual needs ensures that staff promote most aspects of their welfare. The partnership with parents and links with school are a strength of the setting and contribute to ensuring the needs of children are met. Self-evaluation systems are in their infancy, resulting in action not being taken to address identified areas for improvement. Systems for informing Ofsted of significant changes are not robust. Children are mainly safe, although there are gaps within the risk assessment systems and safeguarding policies. Children are making satisfactory progress in their learning and development in line with their age and ability.

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:

- revise the safeguarding policy to ensure it outlines the procedure to be followed should staff have a concern about a child or if an allegation is made against them and ensure all staff are conversant with the procedure (also applies to the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register) 23/10/2008
- ensure Ofsted is informed of all significant events 23/10/2008

including changes to the areas used by the children (also applies to the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register)

- revise the complaints procedure to so that it contains all the necessary information and ensure staff are clear about the action to take on receipt of a complaint (also applies to the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register)

23/10/2008

- review the policies and procedures to ensure they contain all the necessary information. (also applies to the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register)

23/10/2008

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- ensure risk assessments cover anything with which a child may come into contact with and are sufficiently detailed (also applies to the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register)
- provide more opportunities for children to be creative and revise the organisation of some rooms to ensure children are appropriately seated during activities.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Adult to child ratios, training opportunities and qualifications meet the children's needs. Vetting and recruitment systems are suitable and there are some systems in place for induction. However, these are not suitably robust as there is no system for ensuring staff fully understand all of the information presented to them following the induction process. At the time of inspection the setting was using an area that was not covered under their conditions of registration and had not informed Ofsted of this change. This is a breach of registration. The newly appointed manager has completed an assessment of the service and has identified a number of weaknesses, which have been formally shared with other staff or management committee. Currently weaknesses within the policies and risk assessments have not been identified; for example, risk assessments do not currently cover all of the areas used by the children, such as the school hall and outdoor play areas and are not sufficiently detailed. This hampers children's safety. Some action has been taken to address the issues from the last inspection, although some policies do not contain all the necessary information.

Policies and procedures are in place, however, several contain omissions. For example, no formal fire evacuation procedure and the complaints policy does not contain information on contacting the regulator or how the complaint is to be investigated. The safeguarding policy does not contain information on the action to take should an allegation be made against staff. Not all staff are fully conversant with the policies, which hinders their ability to take appropriate action. Appropriate staff deployment means children are adequately supervised and are able to engage in the activities offered. All children are included in the activities provided. The

setting has good links with the school for children with learning difficulties or disabilities, which means they are able to take an active part in the setting. Systems for sharing information with school staff and others to promote consistency for the children are in place. Appropriate systems are in place for ensuring children's safe arrival following their attendance at other clubs during the evening. Clear information is provided for parents through daily discussions and regular newsletters. Thus parents are suitably informed of their child's time at the setting.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Staff have a suitable understanding of the learning and development requirements, which means children are able to become engaged in a range of play opportunities. However, the organisation of the room on the day of inspection was not suitable as no appropriate furniture was provided for children to sit upon nor tables from which to carry out their activities. This resulted in children carrying out their activities whilst seated upon the floor. Also children had no appropriate furniture from which to eat at, which resulted in some children wandering around the hall whilst eating. This does not promote a relaxed social occasion nor promote their safety. Due consideration has not been taken with regards to children's safety in the school hall in relation to other groups bringing in sports equipment and others using the hall as a thoroughfare.

Children's independence is encouraged as they help themselves to snacks and additional drinks. Snacks are healthy and nutritious, with care taken to ensure children are not exposed to foods which many cause an allergic reaction. Some systems are in place for identifying children's specific dietary needs and the action to take should a child have an allergic reaction. However, these are not robust which, on occasion, leads to some confusion at snack as to whether children can have a certain food. Thus not effectively promoting their health and welfare.

Plans of activities demonstrate that children are able to become engaged in a wide range of activities. These plans are in the process of being reviewed with the children to ensure children have a 'voice' in the choice of activities offered to them. This enhances children's self esteem and sense of ownership of the provision. Children have some opportunities to be creative, however, the lack of sufficient resources and use of pre-printed sheets hampers their creativity. Staff build positive relationships with children, which is evident from exchange of friendly banter and the children's enjoyment of staff's company. Ultimately staff have a sound understanding of the children's needs resulting in the children being happy. Children actively encourage staff to take part in activities, such as exploring maps and engage in lively conversation about the countries they find and talk about the places they have visited. For example, talking animatedly about Madagascar and linking this to a film they have seen.

Children learn about the wider world through planned activities and events, such as their weekly Spanish lessons. Children have a strong sense of community and enjoy the opportunities to celebrate special events in other children's lives. Older children provide good support to others as they offer younger children advice on how to

modify their designs when using construction kits. This means children are developing positive attitudes to others. Children are well behaved and respond well to staff's requests, for example, not using construction sets to make weapons. Clear age appropriate language, a consistent approach and safe boundaries means children know what is expected of them.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

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

Overall effectiveness

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

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

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

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 with same action dates as EYR. 23/10/2008

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 with same action dates as EYR. 23/10/2008

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.