

After 3's

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY300055
Inspection date	05/11/2008
Inspector	Anne Sadler
Setting address	St. Marie's R.C. Primary School, Edward Street, The Mosses, Bury, Lancashire, BL9 0RZ
Telephone number	0161 764 3204
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

The After 3's Out of School Club has been registered since February 2005. It is registered on the Early Years and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. It is managed by a committee comprising of school staff, governors and parents. It operates from St Marie's R.C. Primary School, close to the centre of Bury. The club has the use of a classroom in the school and also uses the library and two halls. The school playground is available for outdoor play. The club operates from 07:45 to 08:45 each morning and 15:00 to 17:30 each evening during school term times. There is also a holiday club during the summer holiday. There are currently 48 children on roll who attend for various sessions. Currently, three staff work with the children, two of whom hold relevant child-care qualifications.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Staff know the children and their families well and provide a welcoming, caring and inclusive environment for the children. Overall, childcare provision is satisfactory with strengths in promoting children's understanding of the importance of healthy eating and physical exercise. Policies to maintain children's safety are in place but signing in procedures and staff vetting procedures are not sufficiently robust. The systems for promoting the children's learning through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) are not sufficiently effective to ensure that children make good progress. Consequently, the setting does not keep a close check on what works well and what needs improving. The staff are well qualified and keen to improve further.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- ensure that the management committee initiates up to date checks on all staff
- introduce systems to check the quality of the EYFS provision so as to ensure that children make good progress in their learning and development.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that the adult responsible records the child's safe arrival and time of departure. (Documentation)

05/11/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The setting has in place all the required policies to ensure that children stay safe but observed practice indicates that some children are 'signing themselves in'. The

system to make sure that children arrive safely therefore needs urgent revision. Additionally, whilst all staff have been subject to suitability checks, these now need to be renewed. The management committee therefore is not fully meeting the requirement to ensure that all the statutory requirements of the EYFS are met. Most of the recommendations from the last report have now been actioned, although storage remains an issue; while the room is well organised, lack of space still impacts upon the activities and opportunities for learning and development.

Staff are keen to improve their performance and practice and have begun to meet weekly to evaluate their work. They are aware of the need to self-evaluate more formally so as to establish what works well and what needs improving.

They are well trained and some staff have taken part in a course to familiarise themselves with the EYFS. As a result of this recent training they are aware that some of the components of the EYFS provision, such as the key worker system and recording children's starting points need to be addressed. Staff are now ready to put this training into practice and to begin to implement these initiatives.

Parents are happy with the provision and keen to express how much their children enjoy it. Although as yet they do not receive a separate, regular newsletter, parents do have a notice board which gives them relevant information. They enjoy good relationships with the staff, appreciate the flexibility which they offer and are pleased that the provision is available.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children attend quite happily and are clearly settled and feel secure. Good relationships at all levels exist within the setting and the children and their parents are greeted each day by a caring staff who know them well and respond flexibly to their needs.

Children are encouraged to eat a healthy breakfast of toast and cereal and wall displays confirm their understanding of the need to eat sensibly. Whenever possible children exercise either in the hall or outside and all the children really enjoy this facility.

As yet, however, the setting has not focussed specifically upon the needs of its youngest children. Weekly planning has begun and while the children are sometimes involved in this, there is no specific acknowledgement of the needs of the very youngest children who require a wider range of accessible child and adult initiated activities which promote measured progress. The setting is keen to work with other agencies and to support the children's learning which takes place in school. While at the moment there is no formal evidence of this, children are provided with a designated area to continue their school work, if they wish.

Provision to promote the children's knowledge and understanding of the world is a relative strength. During the summer holiday, the children enjoyed a visit from a policeman who talked to them about his job. This aspect of learning has also been developed in a 'Where in the world' topic which has inspired the children to bring

in artefacts from holidays and home, giving parents the opportunity to become more involved in their children's learning .

Some of the older children work and play alongside their younger peers in a very caring and constructive manner; however, because sessions are not sufficiently well planned the time taken by the staff to meet the needs of the oldest children detracts from the time they have available to meet the needs of the youngest members of the group.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
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?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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: Met

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

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.