

# Acorns Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY104005
<b>Inspection date</b>	19/11/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Andrew Clark

<b>Setting address</b>	Helmsore CP School, Gregory Fold, Helmsore, Rossendale, Lancashire, BB4 4JW
<b>Telephone number</b>	01706 213 756
<b>Email</b>	bursar@helmsore.lancsngfl.ac.uk
<b>Type of setting</b>	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**

Acorns Club has been registered since August 2002. The club operates from Helmshore Primary School and offers before and after school facilities for a maximum of 48 children aged between four and 11 years. The school is situated in a rural setting and children have access to the main hall, an adjacent classroom set out mainly for snack times and a separate quiet area, namely the IT suite. There is also the provision of an enclosed outdoor play area.

The club operates Monday to Friday during term time only from 8.00 to 8.50 and 15.00 to 18.00 hours. The club serves the children who attend the school. There are a total of 86 children on roll aged from four to 11 years old, of whom nine children are currently within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The club supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club employs nine staff in total including the administrator and food handler; five staff have level 3 qualifications and two new staff are working towards level 2 qualifications. The club is run by the management committee independent of the school.

## **Overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

The children's welfare and enjoyment is of paramount importance in this well organised and run club, which ensures that all children benefit from a wide range of activities. As a result, children's development is good. There are good procedures in place to evaluate the club's effectiveness and it is well placed to continue to improve. Parents are very appreciative of all that the club offers and it meets the needs of all children well.

## **What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?**

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

- consider the development of staff appraisal procedures to further improve the quality of provision
- investigate ways to share information on children's learning and development with other providers.

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

The club has an effective action plan based upon consideration of all aspects of its provision. It is currently using the Ofsted self-evaluation guidance well and drawing on the views of parents, children and staff to set future targets. As a result, issues from the last inspection have been met well. An exciting feature of the self-evaluation is the voice that children have in development through their own 'council'. Most staff take advantage of training courses offered. However, at

present there are no formal procedures to regularly appraise the performance of staff and guide them in developing their individual skills.

There are rigorous and comprehensive policies in place to keep children safe. Procedures for child protection are well known to staff who have all had appropriate training through the local authority. All staff and volunteers undergo full checks to ensure they are suitable to be employed to work with children. Regular risk assessments are conducted to make certain the premises are safe and secure.

The club has a very good relationship with its parents. They receive good quality information on the activities the club plans for their children and any welfare issues are regularly discussed. Policies, including the complaints procedures, are prominently available for parents. There are very close relationships with the school it is based in. Several staff work in the school and the management committee consists of several members of the school's staff. As a result, the club benefits from sharing resources, guidance and training.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

The club meets the needs of all children in its care well. There is good support for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities because the club manager has particular strengths in this area and good access to appropriate resources for their needs.

Activities are well planned with a good awareness of the needs of young children. There are themes which link core tasks, which often reflect and promote the diversity of modern life. This is a good improvement since the last inspection. For example, 'World Celebrations' includes creative work based on Venetian carnival masks, Jewish Menorah, Divali lamps and Thanksgiving turkeys. Many resources, such as models in the doll's house also reflect multicultural life.

The club provides well for children to develop early literacy and numeracy skills. For example, they enjoy threading brightly coloured beads in repeated patterns and tracing the routes on a treasure map. Especially made games, such as Snakes and Ladders are linked to the topics and help children develop a sequential understanding of numbers, although occasionally the numbers are too difficult for the youngest children. There is a wide range of construction, role-play and 'small world' activities available to challenge children's imaginative play.

Sessions are well planned with a good balance of tasks the children choose for themselves and some joint activities including songs, rhymes and stories. Good use is made of ICT including the karaoke. The children's achievements in all areas of learning are increasingly monitored and most staff have received some training in this. The club is aiming to develop the training and procedures further. Parents share information on their children's abilities and this is also recorded in children's learning journals. The club is in regular contact with the school staff with regards to any welfare concerns. However, the sharing of information on children's learning and development is less well developed. This potentially means children may not

be making all the progress towards the early learning goals they could and some unnecessary, and time-consuming, duplication of information.

Healthy lifestyles are promoted well. Children start the session with a healthy snack. They have to make decisions for themselves from a range of fruit, salads and sandwiches. Water is available throughout the sessions. There are good opportunities for children to play outside with a variety of suitable sporting equipment. Children are encouraged to go outside for a period of time in most weathers. There is a welcoming quiet area where children can sit and relax on bean bags and mats and sit quietly or read a book.

## 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

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	2
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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](http://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.