

St Wilfrid's Link Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number 315280
Inspection date 26/11/2008
Inspector Chris Maloney

Setting address Church Lane, Grappenhall, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 3EP

Telephone number 07889 515335

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 Wilfred's Link Club opened in 1997 and is managed by JK Link Clubs Limited, who is the registered provider. It operates from within St Wilfrid's Church of England School in the village of Grappenhall, Warrington. They mainly use the school hall and in exceptional circumstances, one of two adjoining classrooms. They have access to the school playground and playing field for outdoor activities. The group provides care for children from St Wilfred's school only. There are currently 54 children from three to eight years on roll, of these, 33 are currently under the age of eight years. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently has no children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities or who speak English as an additional language. A maximum of 40 children may attend the Out of School Club at any one time.

The setting opens Monday to Friday, 07.45 to 08.45 and 15.00 to 18.00, term time only. There are five full time members of staff who work directly with the children. Of these, two have an early years childcare qualification, one at National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level three in play work, and one member with BTEC childcare diploma. A member of staff is currently undertaking NVQ at level three in play work. The group has close links with Warrington Sure Start Partnership and they are members of the local Childcare Providers Network. The setting is registered on the Early Years and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

St Wilfrid's Link Club meets the needs of the children well because staff know the children well and organise activities that keep them actively involved and interested. The strong links with parents help staff to respond well to the changing needs of individual children. Staff are beginning to be more reflective of their practice and have introduced effective assessments of the children, but this is not yet structured well enough to ensure that future learning opportunities are not missed. Access to the outdoor provision is restricted for those attending breakfast club and improvement is needed in children's hygiene practices and the provision of breakfast. Nevertheless, leadership has addressed the weaknesses from the last report and has a good capacity to maintain continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- evaluate the effectiveness of activities in a more structured way so that future learning and play opportunities are not missed
- provide children in breakfast club with access to outdoor provision so that the full range of their learning needs can be met
- ensure that good hygiene practices are consistently well promoted and a wider variety of healthy food is offered at the breakfast club.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The good leadership and management of the provision ensures that all staff have high expectations and are fully committed to helping all children make good progress in their learning and personal development. Effective policies, procedures and risk assessments ensure that staff are vetted rigorously and that all children are kept safe. Children's individual needs are met because staff make every effort to get to know them and to gain helpful information from parents. Children have a real say in the type of activities planned for them and staff respond positively to their suggestions. For example, a child really likes craft activities and more of these have been provided. The very positive relationships with parents and carers, school and outside agencies such as Sure Start, enable staff to gather all relevant information to support children's learning and development. This results in happy children who really enjoy the setting and parents confirm that they are eager to attend. Parents and carers are enthusiastic about their children's experiences and their impact on learning and personal development. A typical comment is 'staff communicate well and keep our children safe.'

Staff evaluate their work regularly, but it is not always formally recorded and does not always feed into future planning. Detailed safeguarding procedures for all adults are conscientiously undertaken and all necessary records are kept safe and accessible. These along with appropriate risk assessments ensure that safeguarding is of the highest priority and contributes well to children's increasing sense of security and well-being.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The setting helps all children to learn and develop well. This is because it provides a wide range of stimulating and enjoyable activities that keep children actively engaged. Children are encouraged to play and learn both independently and cooperatively and this is a strong feature of the setting. This gives a real boost to their self confidence and social skills. Older pupils really enjoy helping younger children who learn a great deal from their positive role models. All adults successfully encourage children to be kind to others and to take turns. These positive qualities are clearly evident when children are settling in as they arrive and when taking part in the activities on offer. All those present, show consideration and kindness to others and show obvious enjoyment in learning opportunities provided. Parents and carers confirm just how successful the setting has been in promoting personal development.

Children are well cared for in a safe and secure environment, where staff ensure that risks are minimised. They are taught to be safe and to behave sensibly when they are at play or moving equipment. Children are well prepared for the future because staff plan and deliver activities that help them improve their communication and cooperation skills. Their language and social skills are successfully developed by skilled and caring staff who use the children's interests to engage them in conversation and who encourage responses to challenging

questioning. Access to the outdoor provision is currently restricted to those in after school and this hinders the learning opportunities for those attending breakfast club. Children's awareness of how to stay healthy is improved by staff who encourage them to make healthy choices by providing activities where they can move and stretch and by the provision of healthy food. However, adults do not always remind children to wash their hands before eating. In addition, a wider variety of healthy food, including fruit, is not always provided at breakfast club. At the end of breakfast club, staff ensure that children are calm and ready for the day ahead.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	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

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	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?	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.