

Oatlands Funclub

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY266683
Inspection date	01/12/2008
Inspector	Sarah Hicks

Setting address	Oatlands Infant School, Hookstone Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 8BT
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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

Oatlands Funclub is a privately owned organisation and has been registered since July 2003. It provides before and after school care and holiday care. The club runs from Oatlands Infant School on the outskirts of Harrogate. Children have the use of a large main hall, a classroom, the library and an adjoining arts and craft room. Children have access to the school playground, environmental area and shelters for outdoor play. The club serves the children of the school and nearby Oatlands Junior School. The before and after school club is open from 07.30 until 08.55 and 15.15 until 18.30 and serves the children of Oatlands schools. During the holidays the club is open from 07.30 until 18.30 and serves the children of the wider community; children as far as Leeds access the setting. Children attend on a full and part time basis. There are currently seven full time and two part time members of staff. Five members of staff hold relevant early years qualifications and four hold a current certificate in paediatric first aid. The club is registered for up to 80 children at any one time and currently has 135 children enrolled at the setting aged four to 11 years. The setting is registered on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

A key strength of Oatlands Funclub is the high quality relationships staff forge with children and parents. As a result, parents think highly of the setting and 'its lovely atmosphere'. Their children settle quickly and are happy and relaxed in this nurturing, friendly environment. Recommendations from the last inspection have been met well and regular checks to evaluate the provision enable staff to identify further areas for development. The setting has good capacity for continuous improvement as seen in the constant updating of the provision and children's good progress. Staff are beginning to realise what the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework entails but know there is more to do to ensure that both inside and outside provide for all the areas of learning. Similarly, observations of what children know and can do are not used routinely to help children make the next steps in their learning. There are robust arrangements to keep children safe. The strong partnership between the Funclub and the local schools it serves ensures all children make good progress and their needs are met effectively.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve all staff's knowledge of the EYFS and plan work accordingly both indoors and outdoors
- develop a routine approach to using observations to assess individual achievements and interests so as to help children make the next steps in their learning.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The owner and manager work closely together to promote children's welfare and learning. They are focused on helping all children to make good progress in their learning and development. Safeguarding procedures are robust. Thorough recruitment checks and a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities ensure children are well-protected and cared for by suitable and well-qualified staff. Regular risk assessments ensure children are safeguarded well and their welfare is promoted successfully. All staff have a secure understanding of procedures to protect children. They explain rules carefully and practise routines regularly to ensure children understand how to keep safe. Fire evacuation drills are now very regular and risk assessments are thorough. As a result, children are safe and thoroughly enjoy their time in the club.

The recently introduced self-evaluation process is being used well to identify areas for improvement and supports the setting's reflective practice. Management welcome change, are developing a greater understanding of EYFS and show a good capacity to improve. Actions taken by the setting are well-chosen and carefully planned. Children's welfare and development are very well supported by the key worker system. Strong partnerships with parents and local schools further enhance the provision in this well-organised and effective setting.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Oatland's Funclub provides well for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The manager uses her skills and knowledge to plan activities carefully, ensuring the learning and development requirements are met and children thoroughly enjoy their learning. The clean, stimulating learning environment is child orientated and fully supports their learning. The club's approach is active learning through play and children agree, saying their Funclub is a fun place to be. They have the use of the large main hall, a classroom and an adjoining arts and craft room for a variety of activities, which support all areas of learning. One child excitedly talked about her home-made advent calendar counting the numbers out loud and another carefully explained the reasons for choosing a wealth of colours on his astronaut scene. In addition, the library area is used as a quiet room to enable children to both relax and develop listening skills, for instance, at story time.

A healthy lifestyle is encouraged through a choice of healthy food and drinks. A choice of three different types of fruit at snack time is routine and there are plenty of opportunities for fresh air and exercise. There are plans to use the outdoor environmental area to grow their own fruit and vegetables and the owner and manager are keen to use the outdoor space more effectively for all areas of learning.

Children are encouraged to choose their own activities and discover new learning experiences at their own pace. Caring adults sensitively support when appropriate, act as good role models and ensure the children taste success. In this way children develop confidence, get on well together and are motivated to learn. Each child

now has their own development folder and the manager is beginning to make observations of children at play. As yet this is not used systematically enough to ensure that children build upon what they already know and can do in order to support the next steps in their learning more effectively.

Older children from the local junior school mix well with younger children, creating a family atmosphere, valued by parents. Consistency, sensitive communication and a caring approach by all adults support children in understanding how to behave with each other. As a result, positive relationships between children and adults are a strong feature of the club. This supports their good progress and high levels of enjoyment.

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?	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

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 registration.

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.