

Funzone Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY311866
Inspection date	02/12/2008
Inspector	Anne Wesley
Setting address	Hartford County Infant & Junior School, Mayfield Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 1UL
Telephone number	01480 390437
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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

Funzone Out of School Club is run by a private owner. It is situated in the village of Hartford on the outskirts of Huntingdon and opened in 2005. It operates from one room in Hartford County Infants School. Which is shared with a playgroup who use it during the day between the Funzone's sessions. The children have access to the school hall and to the outside play area. The setting is registered in the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register and is open each weekday from 08:15 to 08:45 and from 15:15 to 17:45 during school term time. The setting also operates a holiday playscheme during school holidays. This operates from 08:00 to 18:00. All children have access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area. The setting is accessible to both children and adults with physical disabilities.

A maximum of 24 children may attend the setting at any one time. There are currently 34 children from five to 11 years on roll. The club supports some children with English as an additional language and some with learning difficulties. Children come from the local area. The setting employs three staff. All of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The setting provides effectively for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The staff know the children very well offering an individual approach to meet children's needs. Children are happy and relaxed in this nurturing environment and they play an important part in deciding what their club should offer them. The welfare requirements are met very well which ensures the children are kept safe and healthy. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the provision in consultation with both parents and children enables staff to identify areas for development and ensures children's experiences at the setting continue to improve.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- work with the host school to improve the storage arrangements so that more of the club's resources can be made available to the children every day
- provide more stimulus for imaginative play.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The manager and deputy manager are fully committed to updating their knowledge and professional skills through training and reading current literature, ensuring children's welfare, safety and care are promoted effectively. Training for meeting the requirements for the revised early years framework has been particularly effective as those children now have developmental records which are

shared with parents. Staff demonstrate a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in protecting children. Appropriate systems are in place to promote children's welfare and safety. Robust recruitment and thorough vetting procedures ensure children are cared for by suitable people. Risk assessments are carried out daily so that the dual purpose community room is checked for its change of use after school, for example, the play groups toys are removed and the after school club's equipment is checked as it is removed from storage.

Staff actively strive for improvement to provide good care and education. Self evaluation is used effectively to identify areas for improvement and children benefit as the staff continually add new activities. These are devised in consultation with the children, who also play an important part in deciding what new equipment should be purchased. Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place and these are implemented effectively, underpinning the good practice in the setting. A new 'Late Collection' policy has been introduced which play workers have checked through before signing. Daily discussions ensure parents are kept fully informed of any important information. There is very good liaison between the club, the host school and the play group, for example, they exchange information about the children which further promotes their welfare.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and well cared for in the warm, bright and child-friendly environment. The atmosphere is calm and relaxed, children behave well and those of different ages play very well together. Activities are mostly initiated by the children but staff intervene appropriately to take the children's learning forward. Toys and furniture are developmentally appropriate and many resources are stored to allow safe, independent access. Children are able to select what they would like to play with themselves which ensures the children remain interested in what they are doing. However, their choice is restricted to a certain extent as the club has many resources which are stored off-site and only available when they are exchanged for those in current use. The children have good access to the outdoor play area; it is well equipped with small PE apparatus and is used whenever the children choose. In addition the school hall is large enough to allow safe active play to take place. After the school clubs have finished the play workers organise the hall for all ages to play safely. Children's physical development is, therefore, well catered for. Most activities are child-led although adults offer their ideas to take the learning forward as appropriate. Staff demonstrate an understanding of their role in providing activities that complement the full EYFS requirement. For example, a quiet space for sharing books has been developed and a full range of resources is available for creative activities. In addition staff are noting the children's developments in the six areas of learning. There is little obvious stimulus for imaginative play and although the younger children may choose to play with dressing-up clothes, puppets or make a role play area these resources have to be requested.

Robust hygiene routines are in place in the setting, helping to promote children's good health. Staff remind children to wash their hands before eating, children confidently explain the reason for these routines. Children may choose when to

have their snack, they often choose to sit together. A weekly menu is published which shows a variety of healthy nutritious food.

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 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.