

After Three Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	101447
Inspection date	15/01/2009
Inspector	Linda Janet Witts
Setting address	Abbeymead Primary School, Mead Road,Abbeymead,, Gloucester, GL4 5YH
Telephone number	01452 547865
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 Three Club operates from Abbeymead Primary School, which is situated in the residential area of Abbeymead on the outskirts of Gloucester. The club use the hall, which has its own kitchen area, an adjacent room, toilets, playing fields and playgrounds. The club serves children attending the school and is privately owned.

The After Three Club is registered to provide care for 50 children, at any one time. The provision is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. Children are accepted between the age of four and 14 years old. There are 64 children on roll, seven of whom are in the early years age group. They attend for a variety of sessions. The club is open from Monday to Friday between 15.00 and 18.00 during the school term.

There are seven adults working with the children and of these, five have or are working towards a relevant qualification. The group welcomes children with learning difficulties and disabilities and children learning English as an additional language. The school has disabled access.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The club welcomes children and their parents and has developed good relationships with them. Inclusion is promoted successfully. Despite a lack of awareness of the requirements for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), playworkers satisfactorily promote children's welfare and provide a varied range of activities that children enjoy. Children's care is enhanced by the good relationship between the club and the host school. The owner is committed to improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that all staff are familiar with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and also the requirements of the Childcare Register
- extend the club's risk assessment record to include all areas of the school used by the club
- extend club policies relating to child protection and special needs to reflect club practice

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

- notify Ofsted of any serious injury to any child in the care of the club, as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any event within 14 days of the incident occurring (Promoting good health). (Also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register).

30/01/2009

- ensure that the person designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children attends a child protection training course (Safeguarding and welfare).

31/03/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Leadership and management of the out-of-school club works to provide a place where children of all ages are welcome and able to engage in worthwhile activities that they enjoy. Children's health and safety is promoted by staff through routine activities and rules agreed with the children. Risk assessment of the hall, which is the main play space used, is completed and reviewed regularly with the help of staff and children. However, the group does not have risk assessments for the classrooms and associated areas which are used when the hall is unavailable. Procedures for medication and first aid are appropriate, but the group has failed to notify Ofsted of any serious injury to children. Group policies, such as those regarding special needs and child protection procedures lack information to reflect group practice.

The group has clear, robust recruitment and vetting procedures. The club is managed by the experienced owner, who is working towards a level 3 playwork qualification and another part-time manager, who holds a level 3 qualification relevant to the role. Two other members of staff hold level 2 qualifications and many of the staff team are keen to undertake training for their own personal development. The staff team are not fully aware of the requirements of the EYFS and although an enjoyable range of indoor and outdoor activities are offered, these are not planned to promote the requirements of the EYFS. The club has a designated person to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children. This person takes appropriate action to safeguard the children, for example, checking that children are only collected by those authorised to do so. However, the designated person has not attended child protection training, as required.

The short time available after school is utilised well and children are familiar with the routine. The manager and staff work closely with the children to ensure their individual needs are met. Informally, feedback is gathered about the provision from children and their parents and their ideas for improvement are embraced. The group does not have a system to ensure regular monitoring or evaluation of practice.

The partnership with parents is good and staff know families well. Parents receive a warm welcome from staff and two-way communication is well established. Any feedback from parents is welcomed, but the group does not actively seek this.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children only spend a short time in the setting, after school. The hall and associated facilities are usually available for use and equipment and resources are mostly set out before children arrive. When the club has to use classroom facilities

because the hall is unavailable children have to wait for the play space to be vacated and resources to be transferred to the area. This impacts upon the time available for activities, but children wait patiently, chat together and also help to set out activities. A varied range of activities are routinely available and children offer ideas for them and can change or extend them as they wish. The children can choose to play outdoors. Many of the children in the early years age group like to engage in role play and games. A game that involves waiting to see who makes the pirate figure pop up is popular. Children count as they choose where to place miniature plastic swords into the barrel base. They watch with excitement to see if the pirate will be launched out of the top. Squeals of delight are heard when the pirate is sent skyward. All children are fully included and staff support children well. Staff know instinctively when to join in children's activities and when to stand back and let children play freely. The range of activities include, board games, computer games, drawing, colouring, craft activities, painting, small world play and role play indoors. Outdoors activities include group games and practising ball skills. Activities weeks are planned half-termly covering a topic of interest, such as, Chinese New Year and different painters. During these weeks a varied range of activities, for example, experimenting with different painting techniques and cooking cultural recipes, are planned.

The children relate well to one another and to staff. The children of different ages play happily together or alongside one another. Older children often offer support to younger children. The children are polite and understand the behavioural expectations within the setting.

Children generally eat well. They are offered a choice of snacks. For example, toast and different toppings, biscuits, fruit and yoghurts. Alternative foods are available for children who have special dietary requirements. Children can help themselves to drinks.

Children learn to keep themselves safe. Staff remind children if their actions are likely to compromise their safety or that of other children. Children are also involved in risk assessment, playing an active role in annual reviews of hall safety. Vigilant staff help to protect children against unwanted or unknown visitors. In the event that a child is unwell or sustains an injury staff respond appropriately. Records are made of all accidents and shared with children's parents. However, in the event that a child receives follow up treatment this is not always added to the record and the manager has failed to notify Ofsted when a child has received hospital treatment.

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?	3

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?	3
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:

Not Met (with actions)

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

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Safeguarding) 30/01/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Safeguarding) 30/01/2009

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.