



Young Adventurers Out of School Care

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	130519
Inspection date	01 September 2005
Inspector	Suman Willis
Setting Address	The Lincolnsfield Centre, Bushey Hall Drive, Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD23 2ES
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Registered person	Young Adventurers Out of School Care
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Young Adventurers Out of School Clubs opened in 1993. They operate from the Lincolnsfield Centre in Bushey. This is a large site with over four acres of woodlands. The Clubs has sole access to parts of a purpose built building. The main hall is used by the older children during school holidays, and is shared with a day nursery which is open during term time only. A maximum of 50 children may attend the club at any one time. The After School Club operates 5 days a week during school term times, offering care from 15:15 - 18:15. The Play scheme operates during all school holidays offering full day care from 09:00 - 18:15. Children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. Children have access to programmed activities using

other facilities.

The After School Club currently collects children from 5 local schools. The club uses their own minibuses to transport children. The Play scheme serves the local area and beyond; they currently have children on roll that live within the local areas and extend to Finchley, Stanmore and Edgware.

There are currently 250 children on roll who attend the out of school club on various days.

There are currently 17 staff working within the scheme, of these 5 have a relevant childcare qualification. Staff are encouraged to undertake appropriate training. The setting receives support from the local authority. They are a registered charity.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy developing their physical skills through a wide range of activities. They engage happily in football and roller skating. They learn to move with control as they skate around avoiding the football area. Children benefit from regular fresh air as they go for walks through the woods and enjoy walking between activities as they return to base camp.

Children understand simple good health and hygiene practices. They independently manage their own personal hygiene by taking themselves to the toilet and washing their hands. Children's health is protected by staff having a clear procedure to follow should the need arise. The manager has up to date training in first aid and there are other members of staff on site who are also fully qualified. This ensures that there is always someone at hand to deal with emergencies. Permission is obtained from parents to ensure that they are fully aware of any treatment their child may receive.

Children's nutritional needs are met by parents providing a packed lunch for their children. Parents are not sent information on healthy eating and perishable items. Therefore, children may bring perishable food items which are not stored appropriately. Lunch is a relaxed social event when children and staff chat happily. Children help themselves to drinks from the drinking fountain and jugs of water are left out on the side when using other sites. After lunch, provided staff are satisfied that each child has eaten sufficient amount of food they can purchase a selection of sweets and chocolates from the Tuck Shop. Staff need to review their procedure which keeps parents informed of healthy eating and their tuck shop practice.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm welcoming, secure and safe environment. Children

under eight have access to a purpose built building with lots of their artwork displayed around the art and craft area. They benefit from having different rooms set up with different activities. Children enjoy moving around the building freely participating safely in a variety of age appropriate activities. The glass partition enables staff to observe children in all areas and be appropriately deployed to meet all their safety needs. All resources are checked for safety and suitability as they are used.

Children's safety is generally given high priority as staff use their observational skills to monitor children as they move around different buildings. Staff carry out a thorough annual inspection and a daily inspection of the main base. They also check other buildings as they are used. Staff working on the play scheme liaise with staff within the 'Activity World' to ensure children's movements during this activity is closely supervised. Children wear wrist bands. However, as the general public have access to the activity world at all times, this makes it very difficult to identify play scheme children, thus not ensuring their safety. A daily register of staff and children is kept on the main site and copies are carried around with group leaders. However, these are not always updated as children arrive late, therefore in an emergency staff may not always know how many children are present.

Children learn to keep themselves safe as rules are constantly reinforced at the beginning of each session and throughout the day. They are also familiar with rules when using other buildings and happily relay this upon arrival at the gym.

Children are protected through staff's understanding of child protection. Staff are able to apply appropriate procedures if required. All staff receive training during their induction prior to the scheme starting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and approach all activities with ease. Staff are at hand to offer help and encouragement as required. Children show enjoyment and fun as they engage happily in all the organised activities. Children are keen to try new skills with assistance. Two girls proudly share their skating skills as they skate for the first time with the help of a member of staff. Children not wanting to participate in football or skating are given the opportunities to play some games or draw. They use their imagination during art and craft activities as they create pictures and models using clay and other materials. Children show a sense of achievement as they learn to play chess.

Children make positive relationships as they work in their chosen groups. They enjoy playing board games and share ideas while constructing with building blocks. They patiently wait their turn on the computer games sharing their skills with those less able. Their understanding of right and wrong is reinforced by staff who calmly remind children of the rules. Children are given alternative activities which ensure that their individual needs are met.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are fully met as staff share information with parents through appropriate forms. Parents are given written information about the play scheme, enabling them to decide if the scheme is suitable for their child. Children with special needs are made to feel welcome and activities planned to ensure that they can participate fully. All children are included in all activities and have equal access to the wide range of resources available. Children's understanding of the wider world is promoted through some activities and resources.

Children and staff work harmoniously together. They play games and share information about their home life, likes and dislikes. Children enjoy learning new games and developing their skills as staff give praise and offer encouragement.

Children co-operate and behave well, they work happily alongside others and understand responsible behaviour. Staff act as good role models and give clear explanations. Children are aware of their own needs and the needs of others and share resources readily. Staff use praise to encourage positive behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The person in charge is appropriately qualified and values her staff team. They maintain a high adult-child ratio above the minimum requirement. This positively supports children's care, learning and play. Staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities and work well together. They interact calmly with the children and have a clear understanding of how to develop children's self-esteem. Children are well protected by the recruitment, induction and vetting procedures that are in place. These ensure children are cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. Most policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's good health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and the ability to make a positive contribution. The provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Monitoring children's safety has now improved because staff record their times of arrival and departure. However, procedures to maintain children's safety is not fully addressed as late arrivals are not always recorded. A procedure for lost/uncollected child has been drawn up thus ensuring that staff know what to do should the need arise. Children can now play safely in the playground because it is well maintained.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints since the last inspection.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- Review procedures for children to purchase sweets/chocolates from the tuck shop and how information regarding healthy eating is shared with parents
- ensure play scheme children are easily identified by all staff when using other sites which are shared by the general public.
- ensure attendance records are accurately maintained.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk