

Young Discoverers Before and After School Facility

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY387078
Inspection date	20/05/2009
Inspector	Diane Lynn Turner
Setting address	Escrick C of E Voluntary controlled Primary School, Carr Lane, Escrick, York, YO19 6JQ
Telephone number	07721062404
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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 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

Young Discoverers Before and After School Facility has been registered since January 2009 and is a privately owned provision. It operates from Escrick Primary School in the village of Escrick, which is situated between York and Selby. The club has use of the school hall and the outside area. Opening times are Monday to Friday, from 07.30 to 09.00 and 15.15 to 18.15, during term time only.

The club is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register, and may care for 26 children at any one time. There are currently 37 on roll, eight of whom are within the early years age group. There are five members of staff, four of whom have relevant childcare qualifications to level 3 and above, and one is working towards level 4.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. All children are welcome to attend and they are cared for in a welcoming and inclusive environment. They enjoy a range of varied and interesting activities, including many opportunities for outdoor play. All aspects of their welfare and learning are met and good partnerships are developed and maintained with the parents and carers. Good attention is paid to monitoring and evaluating the quality of the service and to identifying and addressing areas for improvement to further promote positive outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve children's understanding of safety by providing regular opportunities for them to take part in evacuation drills
- ensure the record of the risk assessment details by whom this was carried out.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The setting is well-managed and organised. The proprietor is very supportive of the staff and clear policies and procedures are in place to support the efficient day-to-day running of the club. Staff are friendly and approachable. They work very well together and have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Effective systems are in place to ensure any new members are suitable to work with children and to ensure all staff are supported in continuing their professional development. The premises are kept secure at all times and regular risk assessments are undertaken to ensure risks to children's safety are minimised. A record is kept of the assessment, however, this does not show by whom it was carried out.

Effective systems are in place to monitor and assess the provision, with staff, parents and children fully involved in the process. For example, staff make good use of the Ofsted self-evaluation form to identify future improvements, children are consulted before any new equipment is purchased and parents' opinions are sought as to the quality of the service. Any recommendations they make are carefully considered and implemented whenever possible. For example, one parent suggested putting together a 'lost child' folder containing a photograph and details of each child to help staff deal with any such event efficiently. This has been implemented.

Good relationships are fostered with the parents and carers. Staff ensure they are kept well informed of activities the children have been involved in and of any forthcoming events. For example, well-presented monthly newsletters are sent out, photographs are displayed using a digital frame and further information can be obtained via the club's website. All parents spoken to at the inspection made very positive comments about the staff and the care provided, with many stating their child was reluctant to leave at the end of the session. Effective systems are also in place for the sharing of information between the club and the primary school, to ensure continuity in the children's learning and personal development.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

All children are very happy and settled within the club. They have good relationships with the staff who care for them and are keen to involve them in their play. They enjoy a good balance of both free play and adult initiated activities, which effectively complement the care and education they receive in other settings they attend. They are able to relax or be active according to their needs and this makes the club a home from home. Very good attention is paid to monitoring and supporting their progress and development, with staff maintaining an individual learning journal for each child.

Staff pay particularly good attention to developing children's understanding of keeping themselves safe and healthy. The club has very good relationships with the local police community support officer who makes regular visits to talk to the children about road safety and stranger danger, and has accompanied them on a treasure trail around the village. High visibility bands are provided for them to wear when using the public park and the children understand that this is to ensure they can be easily identified by staff. They do not, however, have regular opportunities to practise the emergency evacuation procedures for the club.

The children have lots of opportunities to enjoy fresh air and join in with physical activities. They explore the nearby wooded area, make dens and take part in activities led by a park ranger, such as learning how to make a fire. They enjoy games of football and using the large equipment in the play park. As a result, they have a very positive attitude towards physical exercise, which helps them to stay fit and healthy. They fully understand why they need to wash their hands thoroughly after personal care and before eating. This was reinforced by a visitor to the group who used ultra violet hand gel and a fluorescent light to show them

how germs stay on their hands if not washed properly. They enjoy activities, such as making volcanoes from bicarbonate of soda and lemon juice and watching these erupt, and they work collaboratively as they create large scale works of art, such as painting a picture of life in Africa. They behave very well and take a full and active part in the club. For example, they willingly help to prepare the food for snack and are keen to talk about why they enjoy coming to the club.

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

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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