



St Julie's Care Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	502601
Inspection date	22 September 2005
Inspector	Chris Scully

Setting Address	St Julie's Church Hall, Howard's Lane, Eccleston, St. Helens, Merseyside, WA10 5HJ
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Telephone number

E-mail

Registered person	Marcella Armstrong
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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?

St Julies Care Club is registered in the name of a parent management committee and opened in 2001. It operates from St Julie's community hall in Rainford. A maximum of 32 children may attend at any one time. The breakfast club operates from 07.45 to 08.50 and the after school is open from 15.15 to 17.45 term time only. Children share access to a secure outdoor area.

There are currently 75 children on the roll. Children attend from St Julie's school. The setting supports children who have special needs and for whom English is an additional language.

The setting employs three staff. Of these, one staff who is the manager holds an appropriate early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a bright clean environment. Children understand the importance of washing their hands after going to the bathroom, but do wash their hands before having a snack this poses a risk to children's health. The systems for dealing with bodily fluids are inappropriate and do not protect children or staff from the risk of cross infection. Children enjoy a range of physical activities, both indoors and outside that promote their health and well being. Children are particularly fond of using the dance mats. Documentation is in place which enables staff to be fully aware of the children's individual medical needs and provide appropriate care to them.

Staff are fully aware of individual children's food allergies and ensure they are not exposed to any foods that may cause a reaction. Children are provided with a snack after school and enjoy a relaxed social occasion, however, not all snacks include healthy options. Staff are currently working with the school and outside agencies to provide a healthier range of snacks to children. Children enjoy a range of food tasting sessions in line with theme nights such as Italian, Irish and American which enables children to sample foods from around the world.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe environment. The spacious facilities enable children to play in comfort and to move freely around the setting. The building is well maintained. Daily risk assessments ensure potential risks are identified and minimised by the staff.

Rooms are clearly organised with designated play areas, although there are limited areas where children can relaxed or rest. The setting has effective systems in place for purchasing new resources and to replace damaged toys and equipment. Children are encouraged to keep themselves safe outdoors, such as walking sensibly from school to the setting. They are aware of the collection routines and congregate in the designated pick up areas for staff. Children are aware that younger, or new children are not yet fully aware of daily routines and provide good support to them.

Staff have an understanding of child protection issues and have instigated policies to keep children safe from harm. However, the policy does not effectively cover what action will be taken if an allegation was made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and generally settled. Clear systems are in place to support new children and help them to feel at home. They enjoy the company of other children and actively seek out their friends on the walk back to the setting, where they chatter constantly to one another. Staff build warm relationships with the children that enable them to feel secure. Staff spend time talking, playing and interacting with the children which fosters their sense of belonging and self-esteem.

Children enjoy a range of well planned interesting activities that promote their sense of fun and development. They demonstrate good levels of independence as they choose where to play, however, this is hindered by the lack of opportunities to choose additional resources to extend their play. Children enjoy reading books together. Staff display children's work within the green room which fosters the children's self-esteem.

Children are keen to engage others in their play such as the computer games. They organise themselves well and instigate a rota for turn taking. Older children show concern for new children and ensure staff are alerted to any problems so these can be effectively resolved. Children are confident in their surroundings and enjoy the opportunities to become someone else when using dressing up clothes such as a musical cat. Children are supported well by staff in their self chosen activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff obtain suitable information from the parents that enable them to meet the children's individual needs. This means children are well cared for and appropriate action can be taken in case of emergency. Staff ensure all children are included within the activities. Children learn about their local community and wider world through planned activities and discussions such as themed nights. They have access to some resources that help them to understand and learn about different cultures and beliefs.

Children learn the importance of turn taking and sharing resources such as computer games. They are generally well behaved and have a secure understanding of the setting rules and boundaries. Children have been actively involved in creating these rules, which enhances their sense of belonging and ownership of the setting. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement from staff which enhances their self-esteem.

Staff work well with the parents to ensure children's needs are met in practice. Parents receive good quality written information about the setting and the type of care provided. Regular newsletters keep parents informed of future events. Parents receive information on the policies in the welcome booklet, however, the complaints procedure does not include information on how to contact Ofsted. Daily verbal exchanges keep parents of their child's time at the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy in the organised environment. Children have good opportunities to become engaged in purposeful and fun play experiences. The registration systems enable staff to ensure children's safety. All other legally required documentation is place, however, confidentiality is not maintained within the incident and accident records and staff details are not readily available.

New staff are inducted well and receive training before undertaking their roles. The manager has attended a range of courses that have enhanced children's play opportunities and safety. There are sufficient staff working directly with the children though only one holds a recognised early years qualification. Clear systems are in place for providing cover for staff illnesses to ensure continuity of care for children. Overall, the needs of the children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

The setting has addressed the issues from the last inspection which have maintained the children's health safety and well-being. Information is now available to staff and parents regarding the procedures for lost or uncollected children. Induction systems have been formalised this means staff are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Policies have been revised and updated such as the emergency evacuation procedure, sick children policy, complaints procedure and child protection procedure. However, the complaints policy does not include information on how to contact Ofsted although the setting is displaying the Inspection poster for parents. Staff ensure they obtain written permission for the seeking of any emergency medical or treatment to ensure children's health is protected.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- improve the systems for dealing with bodily fluids to ensure children and staff are protected.
- revise the current child protection policy to ensure staff are made aware of the action to be taken if an allegation is made against them
- maintain confidentiality within the accident and incident records
- ensure all policies, procedures and staff records are in place and available for inspection at all times
- revise the complaints procedure to ensure parents have access to Ofsted's contact details.

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