



Crazy Crackers Ltd

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY270159
Inspection date	26 September 2005
Inspector	Duncan Gill
Setting Address	Salesbury C of E Primary School, Lovely Hall Lane, Salesbury, Blackburn, BB1 9EQ
Telephone number	07980 272109
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Registered person	Crazy Crackers Ltd
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Crazy Crackers Out of School Club is one of five similar settings operated by Crazy Crackers Ltd.

Registered in 2003, this setting operates from its own designated nursery classroom, library, the main school hall and toilet facilities. The setting also has access to the outdoor playground and school sports field. The setting provides out of school care to the children from the local community of Salesbury in the Ribble Valley.

The club is registered to care for 32 children from three to eight years and there are

currently 70 children on roll. The after school sessions operate term time, from 07.45 until 09.15, then again from 15.15 until 17.45, Monday until Friday. The holiday club opens five days a week during non term time, from 07.45 until 17.45. The setting supports children with special needs and there are currently no children attending who speak English as an additional language.

There are four full time staff who work with the children. Over half of the staff have an early years qualification to NVQ levels 2 or 3. Two members of staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop a good understanding about healthy practices through effective daily routines and staff explanations, for example washing hands independently after messy play, toileting and before eating. This helps them effectively understand the need to practice good routines of personal hygiene. Children develop a positive approach to physical exercise. The session is well organised each day to ensure they have good opportunities both indoors and outdoors to develop their physical skills. Children are well cared for if they become ill or in the event of an accident. Staff have attended first aid training and follow detailed policies on sickness, accidents and medication to ensure the children's welfare is the first priority.

Children are kept very safe from the spread of infection. Staff clean tables before and after activities, they follow detailed hygiene routines and have effective procedures in place to ensure food is stored and prepared safely, as staff have attended food hygiene training. Children are offered a healthy, balanced diet and their individual dietary needs are fully met. They are regularly offered drinks throughout the session and after exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a warm and welcoming environment, which is clean, well maintained and has good evidence of their play and activity. Space is organised effectively and children can move around freely, independently accessing attractively set out activities and equipment, which are stored at their height. Children can freely access a very good range of toys and play equipment, which are regularly cleaned and checked to ensure they remain in excellent condition.

Children are kept very safe in the setting. Staff are highly aware of potential hazards and take positive steps to ensure children are kept free from harm. There are good safety measures in place including heater covers, comprehensive risk assessments, fire prevention equipment and staff fully implement detailed procedures on outings and collection of children to keep them free from harm. Children develop a good understanding about safety in the setting through regularly practicing emergency

evacuations and effective staff explanations to help them understand the reasons behind behaviour boundaries.

Children are well protected from abuse or neglect. Staff are aware of their responsibilities to the children in their care, they have a sound knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedure to follow with any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are fully involved in a wide range of enjoyable activities, which help their development in all areas. These include role play, construction, outings, imaginative play, arts and crafts. They are very happy and settled and are keen to communicate with staff, talking about their lives, sharing experiences and involving them in their play. Children benefit from staff who are very interested in them, giving them lots of praise and encouragement to help them build their self-esteem. Children play very well together, they build warm relationships with other children and learn to share and take turns. They are given good opportunities to be independent at the setting. They move around freely accessing toys, play equipment and learn to be independent with their own hygiene. Children have good opportunity to make decisions and their opinion is highly valued. They are fully included in decision making about the rules of the club and they have regular meetings with staff to be fully involved in planning activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from effective relationships between staff and parents. Staff collect detailed information on children's individual needs before they attend the setting and work closely with parents to ensure these are fully met. Parents are well informed about the setting and their child through discussions and exchanges of information verbally and in writing. For example they are given a booklet containing information on policies, snacks, illness and activities. There is a parents notice board and good verbal information sharing on arrival and departure.

Children develop a good understanding of right from wrong through good staff explanations as to the reasons behind behaviour boundaries and they are fully involved in the rule making decisions, which helps them to understand the consequences of their actions. They behave very well, consistently sharing, taking turns and show concern for others. Staff consistently use a broad range of strategies to manage children's behaviour and children receive lots of praise and encouragement to promote good behaviour and build self esteem.

Children are highly valued as individuals and are treated with equal concern. Staff give effective support to children with special needs and ensure they are fully included in the setting. Children play harmoniously with others. They learn to respect each others differences and increase their knowledge of the wider world effectively

through topics, activities and a good range of equipment to promote equality of opportunity.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting is well organised and recommendations from the last inspection have been met. Staffing ratios are consistently adhered to and the care of the children is enhanced by well qualified staff with a good knowledge of child care. Effective vetting procedures are carried out on all staff. They have a detailed induction, which helps them understand their roles and responsibilities and staff effectively implement routines to give children a broad range of experiences. Children benefit from well deployed staff, who consistently interact with them and give them effective support and encouragement, which helps them feel secure and confident. Children are kept safe and healthy as staff attend and update training, including first aid, food hygiene and child protection. Staff fully implement detailed policies which have a positive impact on the children, for example behaviour, equal opportunities and child protection. All of the required documentation is in place, although some records of accidents have not been signed by parents. The needs of all children who attend are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to raise staff knowledge and awareness of, multicultural issues, specific areas of special needs and child protection.

Staff are attending training on specific areas of special needs and are booked on child protection training. This will develop their knowledge and understanding, which will help keep children safe and ensure all their individual needs are met. Staff awareness of multicultural issues has been raised through creating a staff resource file with information on different cultures from around the world. Staff use this to develop children's understanding of the wider world through activities and arts and crafts.

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 good. 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):

- ensure all records of accidents to children are signed by the parents.

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