



Thurstonland & Stocksmoor OSC

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	311514
Inspection date	05 October 2005
Inspector	Gillian Patricia Bishop
Setting Address	Thurstonland Endowed (C) First School, Marsh Hall Lane, Thurstonland, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 6XD
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Registered person	Thurstonland & Stocksmoor OSC
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?

Thurstonland and Stockmoor Out of School Club opened in 1999. It operates from Thurstonland Endowed (C) First School, in the village of Thurstonland, near Holmfirth. The group have a use of a converted barn and the occasional use of the main school hall. The group also have use of the school playground and playing field for outside play. A maximum of 12 children may attend the club on Tuesday and Wednesday. A maximum of 28 children may attend on Monday, Thursday and Friday's when the group have use of the school hall. The club is open each weekday from 08:00 to 09:00 and 15:30 to 17:45 term time only.

There are currently 35 children aged from 4 to 11 years on roll. The club currently supports children with special educational needs. There are no children currently attending who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs three staff. All of whom, including the manager, hold appropriate play work qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop a clear understanding of good personal hygiene due to daily routines which they are familiar with. Children independently wash their hands before eating and when helping adults to prepare food for snack. Staff work effectively with parents to ensure children's health and dietary requirements are known and understood. Therefore children with specific health needs are effectively monitored to ensure they receive appropriate food and medication.

Children develop a positive approach to healthy living. They are provided with a good selection of food and drink which encourage them to make healthy eating choices. Children enjoy a daily portion of fruit and selection of sandwiches and snacks which they can help themselves to. They benefit from a very relaxed and social snack time where they join in discussion about their school day. Children often act as 'waitresses' by taking food orders and asking their 'customers' if they are enjoying their food. Such opportunities promote children's independence and sense of responsibility. However snack time arrangements are less well organised for children who arrive later due to other after school activities.

Children benefit from the freedom to access both outdoor and indoor play during each session. They help themselves to a good range of outdoor play equipment such as bat's, balls and hoops and they eagerly participate in physical exercise during sports activities and games.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright and well kept environment. Low level windows in the 'barn' provide good ventilation and allow children to enjoy the pleasant countryside views. Children develop a strong sense of belonging as a consequence of the warm and enthusiastic welcome they receive from staff. They move freely around their play environment which ensures they make good use of the available space both in and outdoors.

Children are provided with selection of good quality resources and equipment which reflect their age and interests. They are self sufficient in their play as they are able to freely access their equipment from cupboards and the outdoor shed. Children therefore make choices and decisions about what they want to do.

Good consideration is given to children's safety and welfare. Effective policies and procedures within the setting ensure potential risks to children are minimised. Children display a high level of awareness with regards to their own safety. They competently describe the procedures for emergency evacuation including designated meeting points. Children display great maturity with regard to the setting rules as they are aware these are designed to keep them safe.

Children are appropriately supervised which ensures they move between school buildings in safety. Good security procedures and the recording of visitors ensure children remain safe whilst in the care of club staff. Children's protection is effectively promoted as children are sensitively introduced to issues such as 'stranger danger'. This is re-enforced by staff's secure knowledge of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and they benefit from very good relationships with their peers and staff. They feel valued and respected as individuals as they are consistently consulted about their activities, the food they like and how they feel. Children therefore enjoy attending the out of school club.

Children are motivated by the range of activities on offer and their freedom to choose. Activity plans are flexible and highly influenced by the children. They are encouraged to choose short themes such as 'Autumn' which they use to plan creative activities and trips. They independently gather their equipment, mix their paint and develop their own ideas and pictures which they use for display boards.

Children have developed their own group rules which creates a sense of ownership with regard to behavioural expectations. They understand the necessity to co-operate and take turns and they receive constant praise and acknowledgement for their achievements and willingness to help.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Adults and children have great respect for each other and they are successful in creating a friendly and welcoming setting. Staff know the children well which ensures their particular needs and interests are well supported. Children make good use of their outdoor environment to explore nature during visits to local farms and nature spots. Their understanding and respect of culture and diversity within the wider world is fostered during activities such as 'Chinese New Year and Divali' celebrations.

The provision for children with special needs is very good which ensures children are included and encouraged to participate in the full range of activities. Effective communication with parents ensures they are fully informed about events and their child's well being. For example through information records such as 'what I like to do'. Parents have access to relevant policies and procedures and their comments are

sought by means of parental questionnaires.

Children develop a clear understanding of right and wrong so they are familiar with what is expected of them. They establish close friendships and they show care and concern for others. Children are willing to share their belongings with their friends and they display great maturity when deciding how much fruit they can eat to ensure enough will be left for others.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The well established staff team provide a safe and stimulating environment for the children in their care. Staff value the importance of further training to support the on going development of the setting. Therefore all staff have now under taken a relevant qualification. Staff are familiar with the settings policies and procedures which enables them to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and ability to make a positive contribution.

Children in the group feel secure and confident as they are supported by a designated key worker. They enjoy the company of adults and they look forward to the next time they attend. Children play a lead role in the organisation of routines, activities and rules which helps to create a homely atmosphere.

Documentation systems meet the requirements and are kept and shared with parents with regard to confidentiality. Some record systems have recently been developed to meet changes within legislation.

The provision meets the needs of those children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection the provider was required to improve the organisation of the setting by developing the range of information within policies and procedures and children's records. Children's welfare is now further protected as the child protection policy has been up dated with contact details for support agencies. Improved systems for the recording of accidents and medication ensures issues with regard to children's health and safety are suitably promoted and effectively shared with parents.

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):

- review the current arrangements for snack time to ensure good practices are extended to children who arrive later due to after school activities.

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