



Nether Green Junior After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300896
Inspection date	12 October 2005
Inspector	Trudy Scott
Setting Address	Fulwood Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S10 3QA
Telephone number	0114 2307939
E-mail	
Registered person	Nether Green Junior After School Club Management C
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?

Nether Green Junior After School Club has been registered since 1999 and is owned and run by a voluntary management committee. It operates from within Nether Green Junior School in Sheffield. Children are accommodated in the school dining room with separate toilet facilities, kitchen and snack preparation area. They also have use of the school gym and craft room on certain days. A fully enclosed area is available for outdoor play.

The club is registered to provide out of school care for a maximum of 50 children from 5 to under 8 years. Times of opening are from 15.30 to 18.00 on Monday to

Friday during school term times.

There are currently 31 children under 8 years on role. The club also provides care for children aged from 8 to 11 years. The club supports a number of children with special needs.

There are seven staff who work with the children. Half the staff working with children under 8 years hold level three qualifications. The setting receives support from the Out of School Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are physically active and enjoy a wide variety of physical play, both indoors and outdoors, and this contributes to their good health. They show confidence and skill as they use a range of physical play equipment. For example, children move around the playground on skate boards and roller skates, successfully negotiating corners, obstacles and other children. They regularly play team games, such as cricket, which help them develop a healthy attitude towards exercise. The involvement of staff in children's play, in both a supervisory role and as an active participant in games, adds to children's enjoyment.

Children understand simple good health and hygiene practice, such as washing hands and wiping tables before snack, and manage personal hygiene independently. Staff work closely with parents regarding their children's health or dietary requirements. For example, they carefully record details of children's allergies or medical care so that they can respond appropriately to children's individual care needs. Children enjoy a variety of snacks, which include healthy options such as fruit, and access drinks independently throughout the session.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in safe, secure premises where they can move around freely and make choices about their play. They select play materials and activities independently from the range of good quality resources provided. Staff are deployed to ensure children are well-supervised at all times, while respecting their growing need for privacy. For example, staff keep a watchful eye on children who are having great fun making a den in a secluded corner, taking care not to intrude. Children enjoy appropriate challenge in a safe environment because staff make sure they take safety precautions, such as wearing safety helmets when riding skate boards or roller skates. They learn to avoid accidental injury as staff involve them in discussions about safe practice and use of equipment.

Staff consistently follow health and safety policies and procedures to promote children's safety. These include a door policy that covers the safe arrival and

departure of the children and daily checking of all areas of the premises. They assess risks and decide on control measures when introducing new activities, such as baking, although do not keep a written record of this. Children's welfare in the club is safeguarded because staff clearly understand their child protection responsibilities and some members of staff hold current first aid certificates.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children arrive enthusiastically and are eager to get involved in what is going on in the vibrant club setting. They sustain their motivation throughout the session, becoming engrossed in the many varied activities provided. For example they explore creative materials, dress up and play imaginatively with friends or relax while watching television, looking at books or playing board games. Levels of staff interaction are carefully balanced to enable children to initiate activities independently, while providing support for more challenging activities, such as baking or experimenting with corn flour.

Children are happy and completely at home because staff give high priority to making sure children thoroughly enjoy their time at the club. They do this by greeting children with a smile, talking with them about their interests and listening to what they have to say. Those who are new to the club are helped to settle by staff who are sensitive to their individual needs. The younger children have their own mentor who keeps an eye on them, encourages them to try new activities and re-assures them with her close presence. The excellent relationships between staff and children increase children's sense of well-being and help them develop confidence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel a strong sense of belonging as they are warmly welcomed by friendly staff. They are at ease in the club setting because they are familiar with the routines and get on well with the adults who care for them. Staff help children feel good about themselves by showing they value their attempts and achievements. For example all children receive lots of praise for what they try to do, whether it is hitting the ball in a cricket game, helping to prepare the snack or waiting for a turn on the computer. Staff make sure they find out from parents what is important to them and their children and take account of children's individual needs. This approach ensures all children are fully included in the life of the club.

Children play harmoniously together, showing awareness of their own needs and consideration for the needs of others. They confidently voice their own opinions and listen respectfully as others make their feelings known. Children's behaviour is very good as staff make sure they understand the boundaries and involve them in setting club rules.

Parents and carers have warm and friendly relationships with staff. They find staff

approachable and so are confident in seeking information about the childcare. Parents talk informally with staff about their children's activities as they arrive to collect them. This helps them share in their children's experience.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the effective deployment of staff and good use of time and space. The accommodation is well-organised to ensure children can relax or be active, according to their needs. Children develop independence because staff observe them and know when to interact and when to allow them the freedom to explore at their own pace. Although the club operates independently, it has strong links with the children's school and works co-operatively with school staff to best meet children's needs.

A comprehensive collection of policies and procedures underpin the day to day running of the club and are available for parents, to help keep them well-informed about the childcare. All required paperwork is in place, although some lack detail. For example, the complaints procedures doesn't include Ofsted details. Good recruitment and selection procedures and effective support for staff ensure staff are enthusiastic and able to provide good quality care and experiences for children. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection there have been improvements to children's safety when playing outside. Staff are deployed effectively to ensure they cover all areas and fully understand their responsibilities when children are playing outside. For example, they regularly check areas that are not clearly visible. Levels of qualified staff have improved and this has impacted positively on the care of children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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 records, policies and procedures to ensure all necessary detail is included.

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