



## **St Barts Out Of School Club**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY307633
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 June 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Karen Scott

<b>Setting Address</b>	Sandwich County Junior School, St. Barts Road, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 0AS
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<b>Registered person</b>	Ms E. Norris and Dr. T. Hooper
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 Barts Day Nurseries out of school centre is run by St Barts Day Nurseries. It opened in 2004 and operates from a mobile building consisting of three rooms, a kitchen and toilets. The centre is situated in the grounds of Sandwich County Junior School. A maximum of 44 children may attend at any one time. The centre is open each weekday from 07.30 to 09.00 before school, and from 15.00 to 18.30 after school. It is open from 07.30 to 18.30 during the school holidays. All children share access to the school playgrounds and playing fields.

There are currently 32 children aged from 4 to under 9 years on roll. Children come

from a wide catchment area and are transported to and from several schools in company vehicles. The group supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The centre employs six staff. All of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. Staff are also working towards other early years qualifications.

The group receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and SureStart. They are members of the Pre-school Learning Alliance (PLA) and the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA).

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a clean environment. Some personal hygiene is learnt about through the washing of hands before dinner but the children are not encouraged to wash their hands at other times such as before their snack on arrival and before laying the table after they have been playing outside. However, when food is dropped on the floor it is put straight in the bin and the children discuss why you do not eat food that has been on the floor. During the inspection the children spent most of the afternoon outside and not all children had adequate protection from the sun, (it is a very hot afternoon), which could put them at risk. However, a notice was on the door asking parents to supply hats and sun lotion. Clear policies and procedures that are understood by all staff help to protect children when they are ill.

The settings understanding of the importance of children's individual dietary requirements and what makes a healthy diet help to ensure children are well nourished. After school a warm dinner is supplied that is freshly cooked and nutritious. A regular supply of drinks that children are able to access freely means that children are not thirsty. Snack and meal times are social occasions.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed positively as they arrive and appear to be pleased to be at the centre. The setting helps to keep children safe by a secure entry system with all children being signed in and out, and staff being aware of how many children are in attendance. The outside environment is part of a school and is very open but children are accompanied outside at all times and show an awareness of their boundaries. Children benefit from clean and well maintained premises.

There is an adequate range of toys and equipment available, which children are able to access with ease and make choices about what they wish to play with. The setting involves the children in the purchasing of new resources by encouraging them to make requests.

Policies and procedures, which are understood by all staff, work towards keeping children safe. Steps are taken to promote safety within the setting and when on outings, as thorough risk assessments are undertaken. Precautions, such as children wearing helmets when on the bicycles, help to keep children safe if an accident should occur. Regular fire drills are undertaken.

The setting works towards protecting children as staff are fully aware of the types, signs and symptoms of child abuse and the procedures involved should it be suspected. The times of arrival and departure of children, visitors and staff are recorded which also help to protect children.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have formed positive relationships with members of the staff and readily approach them to support their play which staff do with enthusiasm. The children have also formed positive relationships with each other and feel able to play together and alone. They self select from the sufficient range of toys and resources that are available to them. Most activities are child led although the planning shows some adult led activities too, for example, planting. The children happily work as a whole group and particularly enjoy playing with the outside toys. Although plans are made for each session the children are encouraged to make choices about their play. They enjoyed an adult led activity with a large parachute, which all the children were encouraged to join in. Staff are aware of children's individual needs and work hard to ensure that all children become involved in the play but on the children's own terms.

Children particularly benefit from lots of chances to participate in activities that encourage their physical development and choose from a range of outdoor resources such as climbing apparatus, bats and balls and bicycles to support this. The children are very sociable and there are lots of opportunities for their development in this area. Meal times are very social occasions with staff and children participating in preparation and small group discussions. The children make great use of their imaginations during play but have minimal props to support this. Children benefit from outings during the school holidays such as visits to the theatre and swimming pool.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

All children are encouraged to participate in activities by the staff who show an understanding of their individual needs. The children have been involved in the making of a poster which depicts them pulling various faces with captions underneath such as 'smile'. The children show care and concern for each other and the adults present by offering each other drinks, for example. The setting promotes equality of opportunity for children. A policy that details the centre's awareness of children's different needs is available to staff and carers although it refers to pre-school children and therefore is not always relevant to the children at the out of school centre.

Children are excited to be at the setting and sometimes need reminding of the rules but they do have an understanding of them as they were involved in making them up and these are displayed with drawings that they did themselves. They happily remind each other of the settings philosophies and are polite, showing consideration towards others. Staff work in partnership with parents to manage behaviour extending the continuity of care between home and the centre. Children are supported with frequent praise and encouragement.

The individual needs of the children are met through detailed information forms and discussion. Children feel a sense of belonging as staff and parents work together to provide the care that is needed. Information is shared with parents helping to keep them informed as to what the setting offers.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

All staff are qualified and continue to update their training in order to offer the best care that they can for the children at the centre. They all have first aid training which helps to keep children safe. Space and resources are organised to meet the children's needs. Records are up to date and they are easily accessible, enabling staff to care for children according to their parents wishes. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides care.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

In April 2005 a complaint was received concerning standard 2: Organisation; standard 3: Care, learning and play and standard 7: Health. The complainant felt that children were wandering aimlessly with no direction from staff or without thorough supervision in the outside area (care, learning and play, organisation). The setting argued that children are fully supervised when outside and a suitable range of outside activities are routinely provided. The complainant also said that the driver of the car used to transport children was smoking (health). The setting stated that no children were in the car while the driver was smoking and that the driver was off duty and the vehicle being used for private use. Nevertheless, they have reminded staff when smoking is not permitted in line with their no smoking policy. The setting addressed all the concerns of the complainant and the case is now closed. The provider remains qualified for registration.

## **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):

- ensure that children are protected from the sun at all times in order to safeguard them from the sun's rays
- ensure that good hygiene practices regarding hand washing are in place at all times in order to keep children healthy
- continue to increase the range of toys and resources to meet the developmental needs of all the children
- update the special needs policy to reflect the ages and requirements of the children at the out of school centre.

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