



St Wilfrid's Link Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector	Lynda, Margaret Ronan
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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St Wilfred's Link Club opened in 1997. It operates from within St Wilfred's Church of England School in the village of Grappenhall. The group usually use the school hall, however, in exceptional circumstances, one of two adjoining classrooms may be used. Children have access to the school playground and playing field for outdoor activities. The group provide care solely for children from St Wilfred's School.

There are currently 62 children on roll, of whom 46 are aged from 3 to under 8 years of age. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting is able to provide care for children with special educational needs and/or for whom English is an additional

language.

A maximum of 40 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The setting operates Monday to Friday each week from 07.45 to 08.45 and 15.00 to 18.00, during school term time only.

There are five full-time and two part-time members of staff who work directly with the children. Four of the staff, including the manager, have an appropriate early years childcare qualification. Currently no staff are attending training towards an early years qualification.

The group have close links with Warrington Sure Start Partnership and they are members of the local childcare providers' network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is broadly promoted as staff have an awareness of what constitutes good hygiene practice and, in most cases, ensure that they set children a good example. They wash their hands before handling food, however they do not actively encourage nor ensure that all children do so, nor do they always wipe tables prior to children eating.

Three staff are qualified in first aid and the group seek consents and good information from parents to ensure that, in the event of an emergency or the child becoming unwell, they are able to respond appropriately. They have devised a number of secondary systems to reinforce those required by the registering body but these systems are not consistently applied. This has resulted, in information being omitted from secondary documentation, for example, a list of children with allergies to a medication is incomplete.

Children benefit from being offered a healthy snack and they report they enjoy the food offered, though they state they would like to be offered a wider variety of fruit. Sugar free drinks are continuously available throughout the session and children independently access these as often as they wish.

Some children are able to play actively outside and in the large school hall. Staff plan space to allow active play at the end of each session when many children have already left. They do not plan on a daily basis to provide all children with the choice of active play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are safe because staff pay very good attention to safety and security. They closely supervise children at all times, staff regularly conduct fire drills and check the

environment to ensure it is safe before each session.

Children benefit from a well maintained and equipped environment that meets their needs. They have access to and enjoy an age-appropriate and wide range of toys. Some toys are dirty and not properly maintained, for example, the cooker in the home corner no longer has control dials and is drawn upon also some books are torn.

The group have an acceptable child protection policy and some staff demonstrate adequate knowledge of child protection to ensure that children are protected. Some staff report management have not discussed child protection nor the procedure with them at induction, or subsequently. Overall, the ineffective monitoring of staff's knowledge of child protection fails to ensure children are adequately protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children state they enjoy coming to the link club, they especially like baking, the planned craft activities and the opportunity to play on the Game Boy.

Children are well settled and are confident in initiating their own play by accessing the toys set out by the staff. The toys are rotated frequently to offer variety and children can ask for favourites to be brought from storage. Some children organise themselves well to take turns on the Game Boy, they have a list to ensure equal access whilst others organise an art competition and enlist staff to judge.

Children relate well to the staff, who give them good attention. Staff sit with children and chat about the day's events and children's interests.

Children's enjoyment of, and stimulation by some toys is limited by staff's not always organising resources adequately to support children's independent play. The dolls house, for example, is put out without any of the furniture nor persons to go inside, leaving an empty shell which children find dull and uninteresting.

Staff plan one activity each session, which children can access if they wish. Children do not have a defined method to contribute to planning, though staff state they take on board any suggestions the children may make. The planned activities do not provide a balanced curriculum as the majority are craft activities: staff do not often, for example, plan team games or drama.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well behaved and are considerate of each other. They learn to be responsible and to be a constructive member of a team organising sharing and taking turns and helping to tidy away. Staff provide good role models politely requesting children to help and speaking in even tones. The group display a set of appropriate rules that were developed by children and staff.

Children rarely have planned opportunities to develop positive images of race, religion, gender and disability. The resources available to children do not support them to develop their understanding of the diversity of the world about them.

Staff have developed an adequate special needs statement and have an understanding of how to meet the needs of children with additional needs. The building is accessible to all.

Partnership with parents is good. Staff provide parents with useful information about the operation of the club through a brochure, newsletters and a notice board. They recognise children thrive when parents and settings work together and seek good information from the parents. When problems arise, they work with parents to find a common solution.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Management have ensured that 50% of staff are qualified and support any staff who wish to attend training or courses. They plan effectively to maintain staff-child ratios by having supernumerary staff and by using part-time staff. This provides care for children from adults with whom they are familiar and promotes their security.

All required documentation is available, up to date and stored confidentially.

Management have not ensured staff consistently apply the out of school's own policies and procedures. This has resulted in an inconsistent service for children. An example would be the policy on equipment which states 'When setting out activities consider the need to challenge and stimulate the children.' This does not consistently happen as evidenced by the dolls house.

Overall, the needs of children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, one issue for improvement was identified. The registration system for children now accurately reflects the actual number of children for whom the group is responsible, at any one time. This improves the safety of children.

The registration system for staff enables staff to identify their actual times of attendance, however, some staff have failed to fully complete the register. In the event of an emergency or for the purposes of ensuring staff-child ratios are correct, this practice is inadequate.

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:

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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 staff consistently apply good hygiene practices with regard to: encouraging children to wash their hands at appropriate times and cleaning tables, prior to use, for eating purposes
- ensure information about children's health is effectively shared with staff
- ensure toys and equipment are clean and maintained appropriately
- extend children's opportunities to: play vigorously and to freely choose between playing inside and outside
- increase resources and opportunities for children to build positive images of gender, race, religion and disability
- ensure staff receive an appropriate induction, which includes child protection, in the first week of employment
- ensure the environment is organised to support children to independently extend their play.

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