



Tower Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY233136
Inspection date	14 November 2005
Inspector	Lorraine, Susan Fay

Setting Address	Blacko Primary School, Gisburn Road, Blacko, Nelson, BB9 6LS
Telephone number	01282 616 669
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Registered person	Tower Club
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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Tower Club opened in 2002. The club operates from within Blacko Primary School. The school is situated in the village of Blacko which is situated close to the town centre of Nelson. The club is managed by the school and is registered under the Tower Club Management Committee. The club has use of the main hall, the library, toilet facilities and a secure outdoor play area. Staff have access to staff facilities within the school. The children attending the club all attend the Blacko Primary School.

The club is registered for 24 children aged from 4 to under 8 years. Older children

may also attend. There are currently 41 children on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The club operates five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 08.00 until 09.00 and from 15.15 until 17.15. There are three permanent staff members plus staff to call upon when required. The supervisor and another permanent staff member both hold a level three child care qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Staff lead by firm example in ensuring that children follow strong routines which minimise the risk of infection and cross contamination. Children learn the importance of hand washing at appropriate times throughout the session. They take responsibility for their own hygiene and are extremely motivated when attending to themselves in the bathroom. They wash their hands for example, before snack, after using the toilet and after craft activities. The older children assist the younger ones. This means that children develop great independence. Staff follow stringent routine practices in relation to keeping toys and equipment clean. The premises are kept clean, this means that children can play in pleasant surroundings without potential risk to their health.

Staff make very good use of the outdoor play area. They plan a range of team games and physical play activities. Children thoroughly enjoy football, ring games and using the physical play equipment. They learn the importance of physical exercise in relation to keeping their bodies fit. Children enjoy the fresh air following a day in school.

Staff display a firm understanding of the importance of healthy eating. This means that children thrive on a variety of healthy options before and after school. Menu's are interesting and include a choice of cereals in the morning and a variety of fresh fruit after school. Warm snacks are provided during the winter months and menu's are available for parents to observe. Meal times are a great social occasion during which children chat freely to their friends and the staff. One child tells the Inspector "we don't eat chocolate covered cereal because it is bad for our teeth". Children learn and remember the importance of healthy eating. Children develop independence as they are able to access drinks throughout the sessions. At the beginning of the placement staff gather solid information from parents in relation to individual children's dietary requirements. Staff use this information well to ensure that individual children's needs are met, in particular any reported allergies or food intolerances.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children stay safe because staff pay particular attention to their safety both within the

setting and during outdoor play. There are thorough risk assessments which are regularly updated. A detailed policy is shared with staff and parents. This means that staff have clear guidance in relation to their responsibilities and keeping children safe. The premises are secure which means that the children can play in a safe, secure environment. A rigorous system is in place in relation to the transferring of children from the club into school and visa versa. This provides reassurance for parents and further enhances the well being of the children. A variety of additional safety features are in place for example socket covers, safety glass and regular maintenance of electrical appliances and fire fighting equipment. Again these measures enhance the safety of the children.

Equipment is very well maintained and accessible to all children. An effective system is in place for the reporting of any faulty equipment or resources. This means that staff are vigilant and see the safety of the children as being paramount when setting out equipment and activities. Children learn the importance of keeping a safe environment. They help to tidy away toys and pay good attention during routine fire drills. Children sign an attendance sheet when they enter and leave the club. This is monitored and supervised by staff, however, this system builds children's awareness of their own safety as well as encouraging independence.

Practitioners keep records up-to-date which impact on the safety of the children. Emergency contact details are well documented and accident records are clear in detail. Staff can therefore readily contact parents should an incident or accident occur. Staff work enthusiastically in providing an environment in which children feel safe and secure. As a result, children are content and extremely happy to enter the club before and after school.

There is a comprehensive child protection policy of which all staff are fully aware. Staff have a firm knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. However, the policy does not include clear procedures to follow should an allegation be made against a staff member or volunteer. This will impact on the well being of the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy and achieve because practitioners provide a wide range of quality play opportunities. Staff plan exciting activities of a recreational nature for both indoor and outdoor play. Staff place a high emphasis on children having fun whilst attending the club. Children develop great self esteem as they are given the opportunity to self select resources particularly during outdoor play sessions. Staff encourage children to be proactive in choosing their own resources. As a result, children smile and are extremely happy as they move around the setting in order to explore the equipment. They take great delight in participating in craft activities. They listen intensively to the staff's instructions as how to make paper stars. Children are encouraged to be creative. A group of children who are members of school council share their idea's for the forth coming children in need appeal. Children plan a variety of face painting designs for this fund raising event. Staff take full part in activities. They are

approachable to children and take great interest in all that children tell them.

Children enjoy a variety of outdoor play experiences. They take great delight in participating in team games of a competitive nature, for example football and team races. Children run around taking in the fresh air which is most welcome following a day in school. Some children prefer to take part in quieter activities. Staff are astute to this and provide areas for relaxation where children can concentrate. Children are able to access reading materials from the well stocked school library. On some evenings children watch appropriate video's. These activities provide children with the opportunity to relax after a busy day in the classroom. They also have the option of doing their homework in the club after school. However, one child tells the Inspector that she prefers to do her homework at home. During the morning session children choose from a variety of interesting table top activities and enjoy a run around the school play ground. The atmosphere remains relaxed in order to prepare children for a day in school.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are able to make a positive contribution as they are made to feel extremely welcome and valued within the setting. Children have autonomy within the care club. Staff ask for their views and opinions for example, when establishing the ground rules and choosing activities. Older children assist the younger ones and help them settle into the club. Staff have a solid understanding of equal opportunities. This is reflected in their everyday practice, policies and procedures. Staff get to know the children very well. As a result they get to know children's preferences. This enables them to meet individual children's needs well and ensure that children get the best from their time within the out of school club.

Staff are good role models who have high expectations of children. They talk to children using reassuring tones and are very fair in their approach. This means that children know their boundaries, respect the staff and each other and are very well behaved. Children respond to praise given by the staff, for example, when helping to tidy toys away at the end of the session. Children work harmoniously in groups and learn to take turns. A group of children organise a game of 'Guess Who', the older children assist the younger children during this guessing game. Children are proud of their care club. A child takes great delight in showing the Inspector the 'Tower Club Rap', a verse which sets out the clubs ground rules in a very positive manner. This approach encourages children to develop a sense of pride in themselves and their surroundings.

Firm relationships are fostered with parents from the onset. Staff build strong links between parents and the club. They take the time to talk to parents and make them feel welcome. Parents are represented on the committee. This means that they play an active part in decision making and are kept informed of club business. Parents speak exceptionally high of the standard of care provided and the club's reliability.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The club is well managed. There is a rigorous procedure in place which ensures that all staff working in the club are suitable to do so. This, as a result, keeps the well being of children a top priority. Staff are very well supported by the committee and the ratio of staff to children ensures that children are very well supported.

Staff organise resources particularly well. This ensures that children benefit greatly from a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. Staff provide a firm balance of planned activities and child led activity. This means that children look forward to their time at the club.

Documentation is generally kept in a satisfactory order, organised and up-to-date. However, lacks detail in parts. The complaints procedure does not include the regulators details and written permission from parents in relation to the seeking of any emergency medical advice or treatment for children is not sought. All policies and procedures are currently being up dated. This reflects the high level of commitment by the management committee and the staff which is also reflected in the high standard of care given to the children who attend this club.

The provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection this setting agreed to ensure that the induction procedure was effective in relation to the policy document, to ensure that accident records were signed by parents, to use snack time more effectively and ensure that the complaints procedure included the name of the regulator.

All staff now sign to acknowledge that they have read and understood the settings policies and procedures. This forms a part of the induction process. As a result staff are made aware of their roles and responsibilities within the setting. All accident records are signed by parents. This means that parents are kept fully informed of any accidents which occur. Staff organise snack time effectively. Children sit together at breakfast time and snack time after school. This gives children the opportunity to chat to friends and enjoy the social aspect of meal times. The complaints procedure now includes the name of the regulator Ofsted, however the regulator contact details are omitted.

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):

- ensure that the child protection policy has clear procedures to follow should an allegation be made against a staff member or volunteer
- ensure that the complaints policy includes the details of the regulator Ofsted and that parental permission is given in writing in relation to the seeking of any emergency medical advice or treatment.

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