



The Fun Zone

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY302879
Inspection date	30 November 2005
Inspector	Paula Fretwell
Setting Address	Woodlesford Primary School, Church Street, Woodlesford, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS26 8RD
Telephone number	0113 2166306
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Registered person	The Fun Zone
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?

The Fun Zone provides out of school and holiday care for children from 3 to 8 years. It is located in school premises in Woodlesford on the outskirts of Leeds. The facility has the use of one large play room and the enclosed outdoor areas. The facility is open from 07.45 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 18.00 each weekday in term-time, and offers holiday care from 07.45 to 18.00.

There are 35 children on roll and these are children from the school and other local areas. The setting welcomes children with special needs and children for whom English is an additional language.

There are three staff who work with the children, and who hold appropriate childcare qualifications

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well protected because there are good procedures in place to minimise the risk of cross infection. Children independently wash their hands using individual towels to dry them, and they know why this is important. Staff take appropriate steps to ensure the environment and equipment are clean, and children who are ill or infectious are not accepted into the setting in order to protect the health of others. Children understand about how to keep themselves healthy as they discuss their experiences and remedies for coughs, colds and viruses. They are encouraged to be aware of how to prevent germs spreading by covering coughs and sneezes.

Children enjoy snack time and they benefit from a choice of healthy foods. They are encouraged to eat fresh fruit as this is freely available in the 'snack zone', and they enjoy trying food they have never tasted before. Snack time is a very social occasion and children enjoy sitting down together to chat and share their news. They talk about foods they like and have a good understanding of healthy eating. Drinks are readily available and children can independently use a water dispenser whenever they need to.

Staff are qualified in first aid and accidents and medication are well recorded, with information shared with parents to ensure children's health is maintained.

Children develop their physical skills through the regular use of the outdoor play areas.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The environment is safe, secure and welcoming to children. They freely move around the play areas to access a wide range of good quality resources and they enjoy choosing their own activities. Children independently select and put away toys and equipment. Staff ensure the safe use of all equipment by joining in with children's play and making sure it is used appropriately. Children's security is given high priority and staff are vigilant about monitoring access to the building, only allowing authorised adults to collect the children.

Good precautions are in place to make sure children are safe and staff talk to children about safety as situations occur, such as taking care when walking in the frosty playground. Staff and children are aware of what to do in the event of a fire, and fire practices are carried out regularly to maintain children's awareness of how to stay safe.

Staff ensure children are safeguarded as they have up-to-date knowledge of local child protection procedures through recent training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the setting and they are sociable, confident and happy. They have positive relationships with each other and with staff. Children benefit from a fun environment in which they can relax before and after their time at school. They are secure in the routine, they enthusiastically join in with a wide range of activities and they include staff in their play. Staff are friendly and caring; they are interested in what the children do, interact well with them and use skilled questioning to encourage them to think. Children use their imaginations well as they become engrossed in role play and craft activities, and staff enable them to play uninterrupted.

Children engage in purposeful play and staff ensure that they are well occupied. Good role modelling and positive reinforcement from staff helps children get along well together. They understand the need to share equipment, and wait patiently for their turn, such as when using play dough and cutters.

Activities are child-focussed, encouraging children's choice and independence, and each child has the same opportunity to join in.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's behaviour is very good. They listen well to staff, they are polite, courteous and show good manners and respect for one another. Successful strategies are used to manage children's behaviour, and they develop confidence through positive language, praise and encouragement given to them. Children are helped to understand other people's feelings through appropriate discussions with staff.

Children are encouraged to learn about themselves and others through positive images in books, toys and activities, although there are few which positively reflect disabilities. Other cultural festivals are acknowledged, and an equal opportunities policy supports the setting's practice. Appropriate explanations are given to children about difference which helps them to understand the needs of others.

Children's needs are discussed with parents and all children are valued, respected and welcome in the setting. Children's work is attractively displayed which gives them a sense of pride, and displays are on view for parents to share. There are good partnerships with parents, and effective communication ensures the individual needs of the children are met. Staff spend time talking to parents and they ensure relevant information is exchanged, both verbally and through newsletters and the notice board.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the well organised play environment which promotes their independence and confidence. However, the premises are not warm enough for children on their arrival and they remain cold until the heating becomes effective. Children initiate their own play and are able to access toys and resources safely as they move in and out of the play 'zones'.

There are appropriate procedures in place for appointing staff, and the provider ensures thorough vetting procedures take place for all staff. All minimum staff-child ratios are maintained and staffing levels are adjusted according to children's attendance, with relief members of staff available if required.

A detailed organisational plan is in place for the efficient running of the setting, and this is revised to reflect changes as they occur. Staff communicate well with one another and with school staff to ensure the children's needs are met. Children are safely escorted to and from their classrooms at each end of the day, and necessary information is shared between all relevant staff. Policies and procedures support the practice and illustrate how children's welfare is promoted, and these are available to parents to keep them well informed.

Parents are assured of confidentiality and all documentation is filed securely.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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 by Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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 the temperature of the play areas is adequate at all times.
- ensure resources are extended to include positive images of disabilities

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