



BASE CLUB

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 139317
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Inspector Anne Legge

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Registered person Base 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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

BASE Club was first registered in 1999. It is a privately-owned out-of-school club, situated within the grounds of Broadmayne First School, in the village of Broadmayne near Dorchester. The club serves the local community and is open to all children, although most members attend the local school. It is registered to care for up to 16 children, aged from 4 to 8 years and accommodates children up to the age of 12 years. There are currently 18 children on roll. The club is open on weekdays in term-time, from 15:15 to 17:30.

The accommodation consists of the school hall and library, with use of toilet facilities,

accessed through a classroom. The club also enjoys use of the school playgrounds and playing field.

The two owners work with the children. They both have appropriate child care and playwork qualifications. Other staff are available if needed. The club receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are very well protected from infection, due to good procedures for ensuring that the premises are clean, such as regularly cleaning toilets before the club begins. Staff have food hygiene qualifications and clear policies regarding hygienic practice at snack times. Children learn good hygiene routines regarding hand washing. Their care is consistent, when they are unwell or injured. Staff have recently updated their first aid qualifications and records of accidents and medication are comprehensive and shared appropriately with parents.

Children benefit from eating some healthy foods such as fruit, for their snacks. Healthy options are always available, but children sometimes choose less nutritious spreads, such as syrup or chocolate spread, rather than cheese or yeast extract. All special dietary needs are known and met and children can access water throughout sessions. Children's health is very well promoted through physical exercise. They have many opportunities to play outside, using scooters and skate boards, or taking part in ball games. They use the school swimming pool in the summer and play active games in the school hall when the weather is unsuitable for outdoor activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the facilities of a large school hall and a comfortable library area. They have plenty of space to move around safely and engage in a variety of physical, creative or quiet activities. Staff ensure that children are secure by using only one entrance, which is carefully monitored and by supervising them when they go to the toilets, which are accessed through a classroom. Children's safety is promoted effectively, due to the staff's good understanding of all safety issues. All areas are regularly risk assessed and all hazards addressed. For example, unused sockets are covered and doors are locked before children arrive for the club.

Children are safe in emergencies, as evacuation procedures are practised regularly in a variety of ways which engage children's interest, such as by placing mock fires in different areas. There are good procedures for ensuring that children are collected by authorised adults and for keeping them safe on outings. Children choose from a good range of resources, which are in good condition and regularly checked for quality and cleanliness. They are safe from abuse or neglect due to the staff's good understanding of all child protection issues and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy attending Base Club. They choose enthusiastically from a good range of activities, which provide opportunities for them to be creative or active, or to relax with friends. They develop their social skills as they relate to children of different ages and from different schools. They express their creativity in a variety of art and craft activities, such as sewing, painting, drawing or sticking. They play imaginatively when dressing up for role play. They enjoy physical activities, such as playing ball games, parachute games, using go-karts and skate boards, or building dens, indoors or in the school playground. They sometimes choose quiet activities, such as board games or construction tasks.

Children are independent in making choices about how to spend their time at Base Club. They choose activities within each session and they keep a wish list for future activities, which staff use when planning. They enjoy good relationships with staff, who talk and play with them, effectively promoting their enjoyment and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from good continuity of care, due to effective systems for sharing information with parents. Staff provide detailed information when children first attend, outlining all policies and procedures. They talk to parents at the end of sessions and exchange information appropriately, either verbally or by letter. Parents appreciate the flexibility of staff, in meeting the individual needs of children and their families. Children are fully involved in planning activities which meet their interests and needs. There are good systems in place to support children with special needs, working in close co-operation with the school, although none of the children currently attending have additional needs.

Children behave well, responding to the calm and positive approach of staff. They learn about right and wrong, as they agree to keep the club's rules and respect its code of conduct. They enjoy plenty of praise from staff, when they are helpful or remember to keep the rules.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by experienced and well-qualified staff who are committed to constantly developing their practice, by attending relevant training courses and seeking advice from other professionals. They work as an effective team to successfully meet children's needs. The club runs smoothly, with time, space and resources used well to provide a good variety of activities and play opportunities for children. Children meet in a safe and secure environment where they enjoy good facilities and plenty of individual attention. All the required documentation is in place,

but some policies and procedures are out-of-date. The club meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection staff have improved children's safety, by implementing effective risk assessments and ensuring that all unused sockets are covered. They have improved first aid provision for children by re-stocking the first aid box in line with their recently updated training.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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):

- further promote children's health, by encouraging them to eat nutritious snacks at all sessions
- make sure that children's care and welfare are always underpinned by up-to-date policies and procedures.

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