



Pinfold Primary

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY283196 |
| Inspection date | 22 May 2006 |
| Inspector | Lynne Naylor |
| Setting Address | Pinfold Lane, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L40 8HR |
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| Registered person | Pinfold Primary School |
| 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Pinfold Primary is an out of school club. It is registered to a committee and run by Tiny Tots child care group. It opened in April 2005 and operates from the hall within Pinfold primary school in Lancashire. The group has the use of a classroom and the school playground. It serves the local community. A maximum of 16 children between the ages of four and eight years may attend at any one time. The group opens after school, during term-times, from 15.25 to 18.00 and during holidays from 07.30 to 18.00.

There are currently 17 children on roll, of which six are aged under eight years. Two staff, who hold appropriate child care qualifications, are employed to work with the children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children follow some basic good hygiene practices, for example, they wash their hands prior to eating snack and before making bread and staff check that children have washed their hands after visiting the toilet. Snacks are hygienically served as food is handed to children by a staff member wearing disposable gloves. However, as children are not helping themselves they are not developing good social skills.

Children are provided with orange cordial to drink at snack time and the jug and cups are left at the side of the room should children get thirsty during the session. Children's food allergies, likes and dislikes are recorded to ensure staff are aware of children's individual dietary requirements. Food is brought daily from another setting according to a menu plan, which is not available for viewing at this club. Snacks, such as toasted cheese sandwiches are handed to each child. However, no choice is available at each session. For example, staff remove the cheese from one toasted slice before handing to a child and some children choose not to have a snack. Consequently, children are not given sufficient choice of snacks and drinks so they go hungry. This lack of choice does not cater well for adequately meeting children's needs.

Opportunities for children to engage in active physical activities are restricted. Children are not able to choose whether or not to play outside. This is because staffing restrictions, particularly delays in the vetting procedures, mean they must all go out or all stay in, consequently, all children run around outside in the rain, even children without coats. This means children's choices, personal preferences and health are not well considered.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

The written risk assessment is not readily available and staff have little awareness of its contents. In addition, there are no formal checking or monitoring systems in place to keep children safe. However, in practice, staff are vigilant about some aspects of children's safety, for example, staff check that the gate is closed before children play outdoors in the yard at the front of the building, and safe collection procedures ensure children leave with a known adult. Staff adequately supervise children at all times, however, not all staff are fully vetted which negatively impacts on the organisation of activities.

Toys and equipment are suitably maintained and conform to safety standards. However, children do not freely make choices and independently access few

resources for themselves. The resources are limited and lack sufficient challenge, interest or stimulation to provide fun learning experiences.

An emergency escape procedure is in place, displayed and regularly practised; therefore, children are developing an understanding of how to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

The welfare of children is satisfactorily protected because staff demonstrate a clear understanding of potential signs of abuse and neglect; also of whom to contact in the event of identifying a child protection concern. However, staff roles are not clearly defined in the documentation which means in an emergency situation the procedures can not be quickly followed to protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is inadequate.

Children relate well to each other and enjoy time socialising together. The resources are not made sufficiently available to children and activities lack interest, stimulation and challenge. As a result, some children ask what they can do, or play with items, such as cards that they have brought from home.

The planning on display shows a list of available toys rather than a range of planned activities and thus does not provide a full range of opportunities for children to meet their individual needs.

Although activities lack interest and challenge, children relate well to staff and converse throughout the session. The children find the staff approachable and staff involve themselves with the children's table top games. Positive relationships are formed between staff and the children, who are happy and settled. Staff are attentive to individual children. They value their verbal contributions and take a genuine interest in what they are saying. Staff in turn acknowledge their achievements, resulting in raised levels of confidence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well-behaved, polite, take turns and show concern for others. Staff praise and encourage children to acknowledge their efforts, for example, when making bread. This promotes children's self-esteem and confidence. Children have limited access to activities and resources that promote a positive view of the wider world. As a result, children's appreciation of the diversity of the wider community is not sufficiently explored.

Parents are warmly welcomed into the setting. They are greeted in a friendly manner and staff provide verbal feedback regarding children. Parents are basically informed about the setting through a parents notice board, which displays some useful information and all parents receive copies of policies and procedures. However, policies and procedures are not specific to the practice at this club, therefore they are

not easy to read and parents are sometimes misinformed.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The vetting procedure, which includes a criminal records check and enables the suitability of staff to be determined, is not robust. This has a negative impact on the planning and organisation of all the activities. Only one of the two staff working with the children is fully vetted, which means all the children and staff have to stay together so that the adult who has not been fully vetted does not have unsupervised access to children. The impact of this situation on children's safety and well-being has not been fully considered.

Although documentation is maintained, many of the policies and procedures are not useful as they do not relate to the out of school club. The written risk assessment is not available at the club and the written child protection procedures lack clear direction and are therefore ineffective in keeping children safe.

Children have no access to comfortable chairs or cushions in which to rest comfortably, consequently, they play at tables or sit on the floor. The resources are not well organised and the planning of activities is insufficient to meet children's individual needs. The provision does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection, four actions were raised. The provider agreed to develop an action plan that sets out how a minimum of two staff on duty is to be achieved; provide a suitable range of equipment and resources to meet the developmental needs of children from four to under eight years, including resources which reflect diversity; ensure that policies and procedures reflect practice and provide a suitable range of activities, which are appropriate to the ages and interests of the children attending.

Since the last inspection, one action has been partly met. There are now two staff on duty; however, there is no evidence that one of the staff, who has worked at the club for seven months, is fully vetted. This long delay in completing the vetting procedure has a negative impact on the whole organisation of the setting. The other three actions continue following this inspection.

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

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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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- implement secure procedures for vetting staff
- plan and provide activities and play opportunities which are appropriate to the interests of the children attending, allow them to use their imagination, and in which they have as much choice as possible
- provide a suitable range of equipment and resources to meet the developmental needs of children from four to under eight years, including resources which reflect diversity
- take positive steps to promote the good health of children by ensuring they are appropriately dressed for wet weather play
- ensure children are given sufficient choice of snacks and drinks so they do not go hungry
- ensure that records are always available for inspection and that policies and procedures reflect practice and are used to effectively manage the setting.

These actions are set out in a **notice of action to improve** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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