



## Acorn's Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY233210
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 July 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Tracy Bartholomew
<b>Setting Address</b>	Hampstead Norreys Village Hall, Newbury Hill, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG18 0TR
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<b>Registered person</b>	Acorns Out of School Club
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

The Acorns Out of School Club registered in April 2002. They provide after school care for children attending Hampstead Norreys Primary School. The group operates from Hampstead Norreys Village Hall.

The group is open daily from 15:15 to 17:30 during the school terms. There are currently 15 children aged under 8 years on roll. The group provides care for primary school children attending full-time education.

They employ a full-time play leader, and in addition, six part-time staff members. One staff member is qualified.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are encouraged to be independent; there are suitable facilities available for the children to wash their hands, self select activities and they take turns to make each other's drinks. This promotes their self help skills and physical development. Staff promote the children's health and take positive steps to prevent the spread of infection through the use of policies and procedures.

Children participate and enjoy a varied amount of physical exercise; they join in with organised and free play to promote their physical development. They move confidently within the environment and are actively involved within the wide range of activities both indoors and out, which ensures the development of the children's fine and gross motor skills.

Children enjoy a range of healthy food at snack time when they are able to choose from the variety on offer including fresh fruit. Procedures are in place to ensure children receive appropriate treatment in case of accident or illness including a system for informing parents. This ensures continuity between the club and home.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children safety needs are generally maintained at the club, to ensure they are protected from harm within the environment. Children have easy access to the suitable range of equipment, which allows them to develop their independence skills by selecting what they want to play with. Staff ensure resources and equipment are safe through effective risk assessments, these are signed at the start of the session. However, there is no lost child policy in place, and they do not carry out sufficient fire evacuations to ensure that all children attending the club are aware of the procedure. This compromises the children's safety whilst at the setting.

Children's welfare is protected by the staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures, although the group's policy does not cover all eventualities and staff have not undertaken recent training. As a result the children are not sufficiently protected if an allegation is made about a staff member.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are confident and relaxed within the environment; they arrive

enthusiastically and are eager to take part in activities. The staff have a positive relationship with the children; they allow the children to feel relaxed whilst in their care. Whilst staff pre-plan activities the children contribute, their own ideas and activities are adapted to meet the children's needs. This develops children's self-confidence and independence.

Children have opportunities to be involved in a wide range of developmentally appropriate activities. However, staff fail to monitor all games and children initiate an inappropriate game which does not promote good behaviour and language. Children have access to a good range of well-maintained resources, which are used well to interest them and develop their learning. Children respond well to each other and the staff, during play. This encourages the children's social skills and relationship forming. Staff interact with the children during their play, taking on appropriate roles, asking questions and helping with aspects of their play. This encourages the children self esteem and imaginative skills.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel valued, are treated with equal concern and respect within the setting. They are able to develop self-esteem and confidence as they play and make their own choices. They have access to appropriate toys and resources, which reflect positive images of diversity, such as books, dressing up and small world toys. This enables the children to have a greater understanding of the world around them. Children with special educational needs are well supported in all areas and due to this they are able to achieve their full potential.

Children are generally well behaved, although inconsistencies with staff awareness and supervision does not ensure suitable language and behaviour is promoted. For example, when the children are playing the paper game consequences. Adult supervision at snack time is poor and good table manners are not encouraged.

Relationships with parents are friendly. They are made to feel welcome and are fully informed of their own child's enjoyments and achievements at the setting. Parents have access to a variety of information about the club, both written and verbal. However, they do not receive information regarding the address and telephone number of the regulator; this was raised as a recommendation at the previous inspection.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The club has procedures for appointing staff to ensure that the people working with the children are suitable. However, there are insufficient qualified staff present on a daily basis; which result in children's behaviour deteriorating, as staff do not always have sufficient knowledge of how to promote positive behaviour. Most documentation is in place to ensure the smooth running of the club. However, there is not a

procedure in place for a lost child, and the complaints procedure does not include the name and contact details of the regulator. This results in the children's welfare not being safeguarded or promoted. The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

The out of school club have carried out most of the recommendations from the last inspection. They have implemented a fire drill and this is practiced on a termly basis, to ensure that the children know what to do in the event of a fire. The setting have ensured that the registers are fully completed each day and have obtained signed parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment for all the children. This ensures children's safety whilst at the setting.

However, the group have not made available to the parents the name and contact details of the regulator. At the last inspection the group were asked to develop and implement an action plan to ensure that training and qualification requirements were met. This was completed satisfactorily at that time. But now the staff have changed within the group they are once again failing to meet the statutory requirements.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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 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:

- develop and implement an action plan that ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met for at least 50% of staff.
- ensure that complaints procedure includes the name and contact details of the regulator (Ofsted)
- devise and implement a procedure to be followed in the event of a child becoming lost whilst at 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.

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