



After School St Francis de Sales

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY310049
Inspection date	23 January 2006
Inspector	Ann Lee
Setting Address	St. Francis de Sales Infant School, Margaret Road, Walton, Liverpool, Merseyside, L4 3RX
Telephone number	0151 525 8489
E-mail	
Registered person	After School (UK) Limited
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St Francis de Sales Out of School is one of several groups run by After School (UK) limited. The breakfast and after school club opened in 2005 and they operate from the school dining hall and two classrooms in St Francis de Sale school in Walton, Liverpool. A maximum of 24 children may attend at any one time. The group is open each weekday from 08.00 to 09.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00 during school terms. Children have access to the school playground for outside play.

There are currently 45 children on roll who all attend St Francis de Sale school. None of the children have special educational needs or speak English as an additional

language.

The group employs three staff members, one of whom holds an appropriate early years qualification. The other two members of staff are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is safeguarded because they are cared for in a school building which is warm, clean and well maintained. Staff help to keep children free from infection and cross contamination because they use anti-bacterial spray to clean areas used for food preparation and eating, and they remind children to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. There are policies and procedures in place to help staff protect the health of children and those who become ill while attending the group are dealt with quickly and sympathetically.

Children's dietary needs are met because staff provide a healthy breakfast and afternoon snack which includes drinks of water, fruit juice or milk plus fresh fruit each day. Children become independent as they help staff to set tables and they sit together with staff to talk and socialise together. However, children could become de-hydrated because they do not have access to drinking water at all times.

Children use the school playground for physical activities and in good weather they spend some time outside during each session so that they can run around, skip and play ball games. Indoors children enjoy dancing to music and they also have many opportunities to manipulate different materials as they play board games, draw and make models using dough, 'junk' and Lego.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a safe, secure and familiar environment where they are well supervised at all times. Entrance to the building is restricted and visitors must ring a bell to gain admittance. There are procedures in place to ensure that children are collected only by authorised people. All of the necessary fire safety equipment is in place but the group do not practice fire drills so that children can learn how to protect themselves in an emergency situation.

There is plenty of space for children to play and they move around freely and with confidence. However, the space is not well organised to provide areas for different kinds of play and there is no comfortable seating where children can rest and relax or look at books. There is a satisfactory variety of clean and safe toys and equipment which is suitable for the ages of children cared for. For example, there are board games, arts and crafts materials, Lego, small world toys, some books and floor games. A limited range of toys and equipment is set out for the children before each

session and children can ask for other items.

Children are protected because the manager has some knowledge of child protection issues and is clear about her role and responsibilities in any child protection situation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enter the group enthusiastically and settle well. They enjoy a range of activities which are stimulating and fun. For example, they enjoy drawing, build with Lego, play hop scotch and decorate masks. They can choose what to play with from the satisfactory range of toys and equipment. They communicate well and develop friendships within the group. Children are friendly, confident and independent. They enjoy being a part of the group and are helpful and co-operative as they help to set the tables for snack time and clear away the toys when requested.

Staff are friendly and approachable and they develop close relationships with the children. They are good role models and there is no shouting in the group. Staff create a calm and pleasant atmosphere so that children are happy and secure. Staff join in the children's play, talk and listen to them and spend time preparing arts and craft activities. The arts and crafts are sometimes over prepared by staff so that children's creativity is not fully developed.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are made welcome in the group and their individual needs are met. Staff obtain information from parents and children about their likes and dislikes and about their favourite things so that they can help them to settle in the group. There are few resources or activities available which provide positive images of different cultures, religions and disability so that children develop an awareness of diversity in the wider world.

Children behave well as staff give them plenty of praise and support for their efforts and achievements. Staff act as good role models, showing respect and consideration for children and for each other. Children respond well to the sensitive and consistent approach of the staff and they are polite, helpful and co-operative. Their good behaviour is further reinforced by the use of stickers for good behaviour, being kind and good work.

Children benefit from the good relationships which develop between staff and parents. Staff make parents welcome in the group and they talk to them about how their child has been while in the group. Parents receive limited information about the setting but there is a notice board where relevant information such as the registration certificate is displayed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

There are recruitment and induction procedures in place to ensure that children are cared for by suitable staff who are appropriately vetted. Children are well supported in the setting because there are contingency plans in place for staff absences and the correct ratios are maintained at all times. Staff show a commitment to ongoing training to broaden their knowledge and skills in child care practice and improve the quality of care provided for children.

Areas for play are safe, bright and spacious so that children can move around freely and resources are organised adequately to meet the needs of children.

Most of the records, policies and procedures are maintained to promote the welfare and care of children. For example records of attendance, accidents and medication are completed and there are policies and procedures in place to ensure that children are cared for in a safe and healthy environment. However, there are no records of fire drills or of complaints made by parents. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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 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 satisfactory. 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 fresh drinking water is available at all times
- provide an area where children can rest safely without disturbance and ensure that there are separate areas for different activities
- ensure that fire drills are carried out periodically and recorded in accordance with the recommendations of the Fire Safety Officer
- provide a wide range of positive images and objects to reflect non-stereotypical roles, racial, cultural and religious diversity and disability.

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