



Stanton Road After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	503199
Inspection date	18 January 2006
Inspector	June Cotton
Setting Address	Stanton Road Primary School, Stanton Road, Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside, CH63 3HW
Telephone number	0151 334 9308(home No)
E-mail	
Registered person	Lynn Marie Davies
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?

Stanton Road After School Club opened in May 2001. It operates from the school canteen and has use of the school playground and fields for outdoor play. Children who attend Stanton Primary School are the main users of this service. A maximum of 28 children may attend the club at any one time.

There are currently 49 children on roll. Children attend a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs. The group opens 5 after school sessions a week during the school term. Sessions are from 15:30 to 17:45.

There are 3 permanent staff who work with the children. There is one member of staff, who holds a relevant child care qualifications with another working towards a recognised playwork qualification as outlined in the action plan.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children demonstrate a sound understanding of the importance of following good hygiene and health routines as they independently manage their own personal care. However, they are not encouraged to wash their hands prior to having snacks. Children enjoy participating in a wide range of outdoor physical activities, such as, football or parachute games. A very wide range of outdoor equipment is available for them including scooters and pogo sticks. They are aware of the benefits of regular exercise in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Individual children gain confidence and test out their co-ordination and organisation skills in team games or small group activities.

Special dietary needs are recorded and respected when food is provided. However, the snacks offered to the children do not always provide healthy options. Children understand the importance of having regular drinks to stay healthy as they help themselves to their own drink or ask for a drink of juice. Fresh drinking water is readily available for children to access.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are secure and confident in the well-planned after school club. The room is bright, welcoming and child orientated, however, there is no comfy area for the children to relax if they wish. They can choose from the very wide range of good quality resources and equipment, which is easily accessed or available from staff members. Activities are appropriately supervised to enable children to accept challenges and confidently test out their skills in a supportive environment. Children are involved in developing and reviewing safety rules and understand and respect boundaries, such as, staying within a certain area in the playground.

Their well-being is protected in daily risk assessments and the staff's good knowledge and understanding of health and safety policies and procedures. All the children have a sound understanding of emergency escape procedures. They have opportunities to practise and review the outcomes of the fire drill. Children's welfare is safeguarded, as all members of staff attend training on child protection issues and procedures and are aware of their responsibilities to protect children. Children are involved in developing and reviewing safety rules and understand and respect boundaries, such as, staying within a certain area in the playground.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy and confident and enjoy being together in the extremely relaxed and friendly environment. They relate well to staff and each other, developing a very strong sense of belonging as they readily contribute information and share experiences at their regular 'children's meeting' time. Every child is actively involved, and their ideas for fundraising are highly valued as well as their choice of new toys. They are extremely well supported by staff who skilfully adapt activities or introduce new ideas to involve children across the age range.

Children confidently persevere with very good levels of concentration when making puppets and doing free paintings. They plan their own designs, make decisions and choose from the exceptionally wide range of stimulating activities and resources available. Adults and children communicate highly effectively and take time to listen and respond to each other in informal chats or during whole group sessions. Children's individual interests and preferences are recognised and provided for in energetic physical play or quiet, relaxing craft work.

Children have access to an excellent, varied range of activities. These are set out to promote children's interest and encourage exploration. Staff provide opportunities for self selection in small group activities and encourage children to make full use of the provision, thus enhancing their confidence. Children are provided with outdoor play facilities to develop their physical skills in football, throwing and catching. They are well supported and supervised by staff who show an avid interest in their conversations.

The children's creativity and imaginations are stimulated with the wide range of craft activities which are provided such as junk modelling, cards and puppet making. Children are encouraged to enter their art work. This includes badge making and many outside competitions. Staff and children enjoy playing together with the small world play. They do this, playing with the castle, pirate ship and Noah's Ark.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy and settled. They have extremely positive relationships with adults and relate very well to one another. Children's behaviour is exemplary. They are all involved and included in agreeing boundaries and standards of behaviour for the whole group when they help devise the club's rules; these are regularly reviewed in the 'children's meetings'. Individual levels of understanding and maturity are respected and taken into account as children are encouraged to accept responsibility for their own actions and acknowledge the needs of others. Children are aware that certain rules are required to maintain a safe and fair environment where they play happily together and have fun. Individual children gain confidence and test out their co-ordination and organisation skills in team games or small group activities.

The children's self-esteem is highly developed in a positive approach where staff offer children regular praise, celebrate success and value kind actions. This includes raising funds for different individuals and organisations. A fully inclusive environment

enables children across the age range to be actively and confidently involved in all areas. Children with additional needs are discreetly supported and included by staff who are sensitive to individual strengths and weaknesses. The children have extensive opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them. This is through the numerous fund raising activities they are involved in, both locally and throughout the world. These have included buying a cow for a farmer in Africa and raising money for a local pet sanctuary.

An excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well being in the club. Parents views about the child's needs are actively sought before the child starts in the setting and on a regular basis throughout their time there. The clubs policies are available for the parents to view and informal chats, letters and notices, keeping them informed about the club's activities and ensuring there is continuity between home and the group.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are very happy and settled in a calm environment where they have fun in whole group games and enjoy choosing activities from the interesting available options. A strong feature of the club is the way in which the children's moral and cultural awareness is enhanced through fundraising for worthwhile causes. Staff are organised and well prepared, as they attend a comprehensive induction programme which covers areas like play, discussing policies and health and safety. They work effectively as a team as they assess and respond to the needs and interests of individuals. Children are appropriately supervised both indoors and outdoors. The manager is on duty, every day, and is readily available to offer support and advice.

All legally required documentation which contributes to the children's health, safety and well-being is in place and well-maintained. However, some of the documentation is not fully confidential. A comprehensive booklet of play scheme policies is available for staff and parents and effective procedures are followed. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Two recommendations were made at the last inspection regarding records and staff qualifications. An action plan is now in place detailing how the deputy will obtain the appropriate qualification. The incident book now complies with the code of confidentiality.

Complaints since the last inspection

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.

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration/ the last inspection

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 that children are provided with healthy nutritious snacks which further encourage a healthy lifestyle and that they are encouraged in maintaining good hygiene practices
- improve record keeping by ensuring that all records are kept confidential
- provide a comfy seating area for children who wish to relax.

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