



St. Benedict's After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 305315

Inspection date 27 February 2006

Inspector Zoe Smith

Setting Address St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Hall Road, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 3AE

Telephone number

E-mail

Registered person Network Nurseries Ltd

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 Benedict's After School Club has been registered since 1997, it is based at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School in Handforth. The club operates from 15.30 until 18.15, Monday to Friday during school term times. The areas of the school used for the provision are the central resource area, school toilets, school hall, playground and playing field.

Out of school care is provided for a maximum of 24 children aged between 4 and 8-years-old. There are currently 45 children on roll.

Network Nurseries Ltd is the registered provider. They have employed a manager to run the club on a daily basis. The manager has a recognised childcare qualification and is supported by a team of two staff, one of whom is qualified.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy participating in a range of physical play activities in the outside playground. They play netball, tennis and football. These activities provide lots of fresh air and exercise and are helping children to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

The premises are maintained to a satisfactory standard of cleanliness. Appropriate hygiene practices are implemented by staff. Children wash their hands before eating, therefore they are learning the importance of good hygiene practices.

The children have fresh fruit and a sweet biscuit for snack, therefore they are able to make healthy choices and are learning about the benefits of healthy eating. Children receive drinks and food in sufficient quantities to meet their needs. Snack time is a relaxed, social occasion when children sit together around the table with a member of staff to enjoy their food and each other's company.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe and satisfactorily maintained environment. Most potential risks have been identified and safety precautions are in place to minimise them. However, plug sockets are exposed and trailing electrical cable is within easy reach of children. This poses a risk to the children of accident and injury. The group have sole use of the registered premises during their hours of operation. Although sometimes cleaning of the premises takes place round the children and resources, equipment and furniture belonging to the school are stored in the children's play area. This restricts the children's scope for free movement and safe, well spaced out activities.

Fire drills are conducted to ensure staff and children are practised in emergency evacuation procedures. Children are directly supervised by staff as they play. This ensures they adhere to the boundaries and rules that protect them from accident and injury. Children choose what to play with from a range of resources which are suitable for their age and stage of development. The safety and protection of children is of importance to staff. They have appropriate understanding of child protection procedures and their responsibility to implement them should they have concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children enjoy their time at the group, where they are happy and settled. They take the lead in how they spend their time, independently choosing and instigating their own play and activities. A variety of activities, toys and resources are provided, that are designed to stimulate the children's interest and to be enjoyable. Playing outside, construction toys, imaginative and creative activities are firm favourites. Small groups of children become engrossed in their imaginative play. They happily make pancakes with a variety of toppings for each other and staff in the play kitchen. Children become engrossed as they make intricate models using constructive toys. They work together to plan, design and build their models.

Children have time to relax as well as to be active. Some children choose to do their homework whilst at the group. This helps them to organise and plan their own leisure time. Children enjoy participating in a range of creative activities. They use felt pens and crayons for colouring in and drawing. Children regularly participate in competitive games and sport, such as netball, board games and table football. These activities are helping children to learn rules, play fairly and to take turns. All staff members have good relationships with children. They know when to join in, support and facilitate the children's play and when not to in case they interrupt activities. This provides children with a good balance between having lots of freedom and safe limits.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to an adequate range of resources and activities that provide positive images, such as books and imaginative play equipment. At Chinese New Year they tasted Chinese food and made dragon puppets. This is helping them to become aware of the wider world and value differences. All children are welcomed and play a full part in the group. Children are encouraged to look after and care for others. They decorated biscuits and sold them to raise money for the Children in Need charity.

Positive methods are used to manage children's behaviour. Staff give praise and recognition for children's efforts and achievements. As a result, the children behave well and adhere to the boundaries that are in place.

The group works in partnership with parents. Parents are greeted in a friendly and relaxed manner by staff. Positive steps are taken to ensure they are kept informed about all relevant policies and procedures. Daily discussions keep parents up to date about their child, progress and any issues.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the friendly and calm environment. They receive lots of encouragement and attention from staff. This promotes their confidence, so they make independent choices about how they spend their time. All the required

records and documentation contain sufficient detail and are appropriately maintained and stored; all of which are in place. Policies and procedures are used to underpin the care provided and promote the well-being of children. However, the child protection statement is not in line with current guidance and does not include an up to date contact number for social services. This will delay the reporting of concerns about a child or allegations about a member of staff to the appropriate agency. Recruitment and selection procedures are in place to ensure the suitability of new staff. Overall, the provision meets the needs of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection three recommendations were agreed. Contact details for the local police and social services are now in the child protection policy. This ensures the children's welfare is protected. However, the number for social services is for the wrong local authority, therefore another recommendation has been agreed at this inspection. The settings risk assessment is now regularly updated and readily available for use and inspection. This helps to protect the safety of children. Written parental permission is obtained in advance, should a child carry, or need medication. This promotes the health and well-being of children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

The provider is required to keep a record of all 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 the safety of electric plug sockets and cable
- review arrangements for the cleaning of the premises and for the storage of equipment and resources belonging to other groups to provide children with play areas that are safe and large enough to give scope for free movement

and well spread out activities

- ensure that child protection procedures are in line with current guidance.

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