



St. Ebbes

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY282622
Inspection date	03 March 2006
Inspector	Jan Leo
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Registered person	Owen Francis McGovern
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?

St. Ebbe's After School Club operates within in St.Ebbe's First School, Oxford. It began in the 1990s and was taken over by Oxford Active in 2004 to become one of eight after school and holiday schemes run by the group. It serves the surrounding community of St.Ebbe's, priority being given to children who attend the school. The club operates from the shared area and computer room, with children having use of the school playground and field for outdoor play.

The provision is open each weekday during school terms from 15:00 to 17:15 with an

additional 15 minutes allowed to clear the site. It is registered to accept up to 40 children from 3 to under 8 years and children over the age of 8 years also attend. Whilst numbers vary each day, there are generally around 30 children present.

Six members of staff work with the children, three of whom have, or are currently studying for, a nationally recognised qualification to level two or above.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have regular opportunities to benefit from fresh air and exercise, with some spending most of their time playing football outdoors. Those who opt to stay indoors play in clean surroundings and staff diligently clean the kitchen area before and after use, to prevent the spread of germs. Children learn to wash their hands before eating and receive gentle reminders to reinforce good practice. Staff ensure they keep up to date with children's health issues and adopt effective strategies to monitor their condition. Staff hold first aid certificates and treat injuries appropriately when children are hurt. They tell parents and carers about accidents, but do not record them all in the accident book. Children have drinks and a snack to sustain them until they get home and the choice of food goes some way to promote healthy eating. For example, some of the food is organic, savoury and sweet options are available for sandwich fillings each day, and all children have a wide selection of fruit to choose from, before going home. Children do not however, sit to eat their snack, preferring to continue playing on the floor or walking around while eating. Those who handle food do not always follow good practice by wearing aprons to prepare sandwiches and children do not use plates.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

At the last inspection, the quality of care was judged as inadequate. Staff, at that time, had no risk assessments, no procedures to follow if a child was lost or uncollected, and the premises were not secure. Staff have taken appropriate action to address all these issues in order to improve children's safety considerably. All children under the age of 8 years attending the provision, wear tags or t-shirts to identify them easily to staff. Staff supervise children closely at all times and challenge unknown visitors to ensure children are not at risk. The children learn where they can go and inform staff if they move to another area. Staff supervise conscientiously, with no hint of complacency, and take their responsibility very seriously. As a result, written procedures are now in place covering lost or uncollected children, all children stay within sight of the staff, and the standard of safety is much better. Staff store resources thoughtfully to make sure most are easily accessible to children and do not pose a hazard. They position glass and other dangerous items, on high shelves out of children's reach and supervise their use. Toys and resources are in good condition and children learn to use them sensibly. Staff have a sound knowledge of the child

protection procedure and display relevant information to ensure all adults understand the referral process. They have ample information on file to respond immediately if they have concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children eagerly arrive at the group and chat to friends and staff about their day. Activities are a little slow to start because staff wait for school pupils to leave the area before the club members begin play. Staff take this opportunity to remind children about their conduct, and where to find resources. All settle quickly into their chosen activity. Some take advantage of bright weather and spend their whole time outdoors practising football skills in the playground. Others draw or colour pictures with friends, working harmoniously alongside each other at a table indoors. Some patiently wait for their turn on the snooker table, showing interest in how skilful others are, and all get on well together. The children are very sociable and include adults in their games, but some demonstrate their control over what they are doing, by briefly pretending to be fed up when staff try to engage them. All staff get on well together and support each other wholeheartedly. This provides the children with consistent messages and results in children being confident, well settled and reluctant to go home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcome and receive the help and attention they need to participate fully in their chosen activity. Staff treat children fairly and apply the rules consistently, leaving children in no doubt as to how to behave. In order to help children develop their social awareness, those with challenging behaviour learn to comply with expectations or lose some of their playtime. Staff give a high level of encouragement to help such children amend their behaviour. The children remain under the supervision of staff until they leave the premises with the adult who collects them. This helps to avoid confusion and as a result, behaviour is good. Parents and carers are always welcome and staff regularly share information about the day. Staff know children and parents well because they build close relationships and, as a result, communication is very effective. Staff discuss sensitive information out of earshot of the children to avoid upset, and they keep children's personal information confidential.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. At the last inspection, many of the records were missing or unavailable, staff qualifications were unacceptable and notification of staff changes did not happen. Since then, a new supervisor has taken over and all the documentation, required by regulation, is in place. An attendance register is completed which shows clearly who is present,

however, it does not show what time the children leave the after school club to give a true picture of their hours of attendance. The registered provider has standard policies and procedures for the chain of provisions, copies of which are at each site to ensure they are always available for inspection. In addition, the sessions are well organised to ensure children have choices, adequate supervision to keep them safe, and they enjoy their time with their friends. All personal information is secure and confidential, and practice matches the group's policies.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were eight actions set at the last inspection in order to raise the standard of care offered. All have been addressed effectively, and the provision is no longer inadequate. Documentation is held on site, available for inspection, and generally conforms to regulations. The daily record of attendance lacks detail and this matter has been addressed in a recommendation following this inspection. Ofsted is now informed of significant changes and staff are continuing with their training to raise their level of qualifications. Safety has been greatly improved through the introduction and implementation of risk assessments and the identification bands used in order to easily recognise the children attending the out of school club.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

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 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):

- improve food hygiene by supplying protective clothing for those handling and preparing food, providing children with a clean area to sit and eat their snack, and introducing appropriate equipment to eat off

- improve documentation by ensuring that the daily record of attendance accurately reflects children's arrival and departure times, and all accidents are recorded.

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