



Funzone Out of School Club and Holiday Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	127800
Inspection date	08 February 2006
Inspector	Sandra Daniels
Setting Address	Thorley Christian Centre, Viceron Place, Bishops Stortford, Herts, CM23 4EL
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Registered person	Mr and Mrs Khetani
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?

Funzone Out of School Club and Holiday play scheme opened in 1998. It operates from the Thorley Christian Centre in Bishops Stortford. The group serves the local area.

Funzone may care for no more than 32 children from 4 years to under 8 years at any one time. There are currently 13 children from 4 to 8 years on roll. Children attend a variety of sessions. The group supports a small number of children who have special educational needs.

The group opens five days a week from 15.30 to 18.15 term time and from 08.15 to 18.00 during school holidays.

There are 4 or 5 members of staff working with the children at each session. There are 3 members of staff who hold an early years qualification and 1 is working towards a Higher National Diploma.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in an environment where good hygiene practices are always maintained. Staff consistently apply agreed health procedures which ensure the risk of cross-infection is minimised and children's good health is maintained. Children learn about healthy routines through activities such as washing their hands after using the toilet and before having snacks. Older children manage their personal care needs very well and are developing an understanding of things that may affect their health, such as germs, healthy foods and exercise.

All children enjoy regular physical activities, both indoors and outside. They have access to a good range of outdoor play equipment to support physical development and co-ordination. For example, children confidently ride scooters and play ball games. They use a range of tools and equipment such as the computer, scissors and puzzles.

Children's awareness of the benefits of healthy eating is actively promoted at snack times. They enjoy a variety of healthy hot and cold snacks, such as fresh fruits, vegetables and pasta and learn why some foods are better for their bodies than others. Staff use snack times as an opportunity to extend children's learning by discussing what they are eating. Fresh drinking water is freely available throughout the session and children can help themselves independently. Staff maintain appropriate written records for each child to ensure their individual health and dietary requirements are always met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The provision has excellent measures in place to ensure that all potential risks to children, both indoors and outside, are identified and minimised. For example, children's arrival and departure times are consistently recorded accurately and an accurate visitor log is kept. Comprehensive risk assessments are carried out, reviewed regularly and appropriate action taken as necessary.

Children's care is significantly enhanced by exceptional organisation. They benefit from easy and safe access to a worthwhile range of age-appropriate toys and play materials from which they enthusiastically select, helping to maximise their independence. Resources are frequently checked by staff to ensure there are no

broken parts that could harm children. Children develop an awareness of keeping themselves and others safe as staff reinforce safe practices, such as maintaining a tidy environment with clear play space, free of obstacles.

Space within the setting is very well organised, allowing children to move around safely and independently. Staff are particularly vigilant about children's safety and talk with them about safe practice and behaviour.

Children's welfare is very well safeguarded as all staff have a thorough knowledge of child protection issues and fully recognise their roles and responsibilities in the protection of children. Highly effective procedures are in place for the safe collection of children.

Children enjoy their play and thrive in this environment where priority is given to their safety and well-being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the setting and are happy and settled. Staff relate sensitively to them and provide a wide range of activities which are interesting and stimulating. However, children have limited opportunity at present to rest or relax comfortably in a quiet area and, for example, fully benefit from the very worthwhile selection of books. The warm and comfortable relationships developed by staff enable children to feel secure and develop a strong sense of self-esteem.

All children receive very good levels of support from this well established and stable staff team. Children make friends with their peers and with the staff, initiating conversations and involving other children and adults in their play. Staff interact well with children during activities and support them well. Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as art and craft, painting, cooking, music and pretend play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are warmly welcomed into the setting which helps them to feel happy and secure. They benefit from access to a good range of worthwhile play resources which promote positive images of diversity. Children gain respect for themselves and others as they learn to appreciate differences and similarities. Children also participate in activities which promote their awareness of different cultures and festivals.

Children feel a strong sense of belonging. They delight in greeting adults and peers and look forward to attending the group. All children receive effective support from staff, enabling them to develop confidence and self-esteem. Behaviour is consistently good and children show high levels of independence as staff praise and encourage their efforts and achievements.

Children are kind and courteous and play very well together, learning to take turns, share and take responsibility for their behaviour.

Children benefit from the professional and friendly relationships staff have built with their parents. Parents receive regular feedback on their child's activities and well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The highly experienced and skilled staff team use their knowledge very well to ensure that all children are happy, comfortable and confident within the setting. Practitioners demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the group's policies and procedures and implement them effectively to ensure that children are kept safe and well at all times.

Robust systems are in place for recruitment and vetting of staff and there are many opportunities for further staff training and development. Staff continually evaluate their practice in order that children receive the best possible opportunities to flourish.

The provider is passionate about caring for children and has developed a skilled, enthusiastic and highly motivated staff team. Practitioners are confident and competent in their ability to provide an inclusive environment where every child matters.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to ensure that several procedures were in place; to minimise the spread of infection, to record children's arrival times, to encourage staff to maintain their professional development and to ensure that all staff are aware of the current Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

Children's health and well-being is promoted by the introduction of systems such as suitable exclusion periods for childhood illnesses, safe administration of medications and reinforcing effective health and hygiene routines.

Children's safety and security is enhanced as their arrival and departure times are now clearly recorded and all staff are aware of the correct procedures to follow should they have any child protection concerns. Staff have attended child protection training and are familiar with the guidelines issued by the local Area Child Protection Committee.

Children benefit as the provider has ensured that members of staff have further developed their knowledge and skills by attending various short training courses such as activities and games for children, first aid (including EpiPen administration) and basic food hygiene.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1st April 2004. 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):

- ensure children have opportunities for quiet times when they can rest or relax in a quiet area

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