



Gilberts Gang Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 260004

Inspection date 09 February 2006

Inspector Susan Riley

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Registered person St Gilbert's Out of School Club Management Committ

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?

Gilbert's Gang Out of School Club is a committee run provision which offers before and after school care to children attending St. Gilbert's Church of England Primary School. The club has been operating since 1997.

The club has the use of three classrooms situated on the ground and first floor within the school building. Toilet facilities are situated adjacent to the classrooms. There is an enclosed outdoor playground and field. The club also use the main school hall for physical activities.

A maximum of 48 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 08:00 until 08:40 and 15:15 until 18:00 during school term times. There are currently 128 children from 4 to under 11 years on roll.

The club employs eight staff. Three of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. One staff member is working towards a qualification.

The club are members of 4Children and Children's Links and have successfully completed the level 2 Quality Assurance award.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because practitioners follow current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines. They are cared for in premises that are clean and welcoming. Children are familiar with the hygiene routines and wash their hands appropriately throughout the session. They are independent in their self-care skills.

Practitioners take appropriate steps when handling food and maintain the environment to prevent the spread of infection and minimise risks to children. Children are satisfactorily nourished through the varied menu offered. Drinks are readily available and children help themselves when they are thirsty, this promotes their independence.

Children enjoy taking part in the variety of physical activities offered and willingly join in; this allows them to be active and develops their co-ordination. Children rest and relax as they require in the comfy areas within the club.

Children have their health and dietary needs met because practitioners work well with parents; appropriate information is gathered and recorded. Children receive appropriate care if they become ill or are injured. Sufficient practitioners hold a current first aid certificate. First aid boxes are available and the accident records contain the required details. This promotes children's well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe environment. There is sufficient space for children to play, rest and eat comfortably. Suitable play equipment and resources are well organised and kept in good order which allows children to play in safety. Children can reach the toys and equipment easily and have free choice, which encourages their independence.

Children gain a sense of belonging as they are warmly welcomed. Practitioners deploy themselves around the areas used by the children, to ensure they are safe and well supervised at all times. Daily informal risk assessments are carried out by practitioners, ensuring that equipment and areas used by the children are suitable and safe. Children learn to keep themselves safe as gentle reminders are given.

Most children are protected because practitioners understand their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice. However, their policy and procedure for child protection is not in line with current guidance and does not cover if an allegation is made against a staff member. Appropriate systems are in place to ensure children are cared for by adults who are vetted and have the relevant experience, knowledge and skills. Effective procedures are in place to ensure that children are only collected by agreed persons; this ensures children are kept safe. An evacuation procedure is in place and is practised regularly, to enable children and adults to stay calm in the event of an emergency.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled, and are confident to move around the play areas. They enjoy their time at the club and freely select activities according to their needs and interests. Children make decisions about their play as they choose from a wide range of activities and experiences throughout the session, both in and out of doors. This develops confidence and raises self-esteem.

Children are confident to approach practitioners to ask questions or for help and support. They acquire new knowledge and skills as they complete their craft activities. Children take pride in their own achievements. For example, when trying on the masks they have just made, or completing a word search on their own, or by showing others the Valentine cards they have just made.

Children relate very well to their peers and adults, and sound relationships are in place. They seek out their friends to play games, share activities or sit and eat their snack together. Children are aware of the rules of the setting, and understand why these are in place. For example, why they walk indoors and don't run, as they might fall over and hurt themselves. Children are very aware of the routines of the session.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by practitioners who work with parents to meet individual children's needs and ensure they are included fully in the life of the club. A suitable complaints policy is in place. However, there is no system of keeping a record of any concerns or complaints that can be shared with parents upon their request. Children use a suggestion box to make comments on activities or changes, this gives them a sense of belonging and of self-worth as they recognise that their views are valued.

Children are well behaved and their good behaviour is appropriately fostered by the practitioner's sensitive intervention and positive reinforcement. Children are actively involved in making their own choices during play. Practitioners know individual children well and talk to them about their day at school, supporting children in feeling valued. Children learn about the wider community through involvement in activities, for example, by completing craft activities around the many festivals and celebrations or tasting foods of other cultures. They are learning about the similarities and differences between people and have positive attitudes towards others. Children are valued and respected as individuals.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are well protected and cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. Suitable staff induction arrangements are in place and cover the required elements. Ofsted has been informed of all staff changes but not of the changes to the members of the management committee, this does pose a risk to children.

The provision is well organised to enable children of all ages to feel welcome and settle easily. Procedures are in place to protect children from unvetted persons, and correct staff ratios are maintained at all times. As a result children are well supervised and their welfare is protected.

Most policies and procedures are appropriate and satisfactorily support the organisation and care of the children. Required documents are accessible and stored confidentially. Overall, the range of children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the registered person agreed to one recommendation for better practice. Large floor cushions have been purchased for each of the areas used by the children. Allowing children to rest or relax safely without disturbance.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 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 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):

- review the child protection statement, to be in line with current guidance and ensure it includes procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff
- ensure a record of complaints is maintained and appropriate information from that record is shared with parents on request
- ensure the early years child care inspector is informed of any significant changes.

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