



Dothill After Hours club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	208192
Inspection date	10 August 2005
Inspector	Julie Kim Davies
Setting Address	Dothill Infant School, Severn Drive, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 3JB
Telephone number	01952 248005
E-mail	
Registered person	Mrs Jonquil Doodson and Miss Rosey Marsland
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?

Dothill Out of Hours Club (also known as Tick Tock Out of Hours Club) opened in 1999. It operates from a single storey building and is situated in the grounds of Dothill Infant and Junior school in the Dothill Wellington area of Telford. The interior consists of an entrance hall, main activity room, kitchen, art room, games room, quiet room and bathroom facilities. The club has its own fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. Wellington town centre is within walking distance and provides a range of shops, leisure and other community facilities.

The club cares for a maximum of 24 children aged from 4 years to 10 years. There

are currently 62 children on roll. The club caters for children from Dohill School during term time and extends the service to children from other schools during school holiday periods. Term time opening hours are Monday to Friday, 07.30 to 08.45 (breakfast club) and 15.00 to 18.00 each evening. During school holiday times the club operates all day Monday to Friday during the hours of 07.30 to 18.00. The club closes for bank holidays and between Christmas and the New Year.

There are eight staff who work with the children. All except one member of staff have recognised early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children take part in a wide range of activities which meet their physical, nutritional and health needs whilst attending the club. Staff follow appropriate hygiene procedures and they have effective systems in place to ensure food is stored and prepared safely, for example staff have completed basic food hygiene training. Some children remember whilst others are reminded by staff, of the need to wash their hands especially before eating. The good bathroom facilities enable independence and privacy for these older children. Children are able to relax and unwind after school by reading or listening quietly to music in the quiet room with comfy floor cushions for sitting on. Staff organise the environment so that those children who choose to can have a quiet space.

All children are able to participate in well-organised activities. When possible children enjoy going outside in the secure garden, in a safe play area where they organise various ball games with their friends.

Children enjoy nutritious snacks and are regularly involved in cooking activities. Children are encouraged to be independent for example they have the ingredients on a table to put toppings of their choice on to toast or make sandwiches. They are able to access drinks from the water tower at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

All children are cared for in a well organised, welcoming club which is attractively arranged for the needs of the children. Staff have a good understanding of safety and encourage children to be aware, for example, tying shoe laces, using scissors sensibly, putting items away so as not to obstruct walkways. Staff are careful to minimise the risks for children, for example regular safety checks are made throughout the premises. Security is given a high priority, with all children being aware they do not open the door to anyone. Vigilant staff maintain a close surveillance of the rooms and what children are doing without being too invasive to interrupt the self initiated activities taking place.

Children make good use of the stimulating range of resources which are in good condition and regularly checked for safety. The appropriately sized furniture and accessible storage units encourage their independence. The setting complies with the procedures and documentation required to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded. Children as well as staff have a good awareness of the emergency evacuation and fire procedures and how to respond. Accident records are appropriately detailed, however the way the accident record is organised limits confidentiality when parents are asked to sign, as all entries are visible. This is to be raised as a recommendation for improvement. Children are well protected by staff who have a clear understanding of child protection procedures which are provided by the local Area Child Protection Committee.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive eagerly at the club where they confidently involve themselves in the activities and independently select what they want to do. Those less confident are greeted with enthusiasm by the staff and helped to settle in by involving them in an activity and encouraging the other children to join in too. The well resourced and organised rooms, which are arranged into areas such as craft and quiet area and table activities, help the children make choices and encourage their independence.

The children take an active part in planning their activities and topics. Staff support children in being spontaneous to events and ideas they wish to follow. For example some of the children wanted, on the day of the inspection, to create costumes and have their faces painted as characters from the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory film which some of them had recently seen, and so staff assisted. Art and craft topics are particularly popular with children. They engage in activities such as creating secret message systems, printing sophisticated greetings cards, sewing and pottery which are facilitated by experienced staff who enable such age appropriate and challenging activities to materialise. Resources reflect the age group of children and sustain their interest and enjoyment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and helped to settle into the daily routine of the club because staff respect their individuality and needs. Throughout the club, within displays and resources, children benefit from positive images of other cultures and social diversity. Children celebrate different cultural festivals and explore the wider world through planned projects.

Children with special educational needs are sensitively supported by experienced staff who have a good understanding of their individual needs. Staff work closely with parents, carers and outside agencies to take appropriate action to ensure consistency, continuity and inclusion for all children.

Children behave well and they play harmoniously together. They share games and friendships are forged. Most children respond automatically with please and thank you when passing around the food at snack time, and they respect each other during their large group activities when an individual wants to speak. Staff have high expectations and set consistent boundaries for all children who have a sense of belonging through the relationships that develop between the children and staff.

The partnership with parents and carers is good and significantly contributes to the children's well-being. Staff ensure that all parents know how their child has been whilst at the club and play a vital role in communicating information between school and home. The well organised notice board provides parents with valuable knowledge of the policies, procedures, coming events and other relevant information they need to be aware of.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by well trained, experienced staff and well organised management of the day to day provision in the club. All policies, procedures and records are satisfactorily maintained and available. Staffing procedures are effective with the exception of induction processes. The staff team are experienced and most have been employed for sometime. However induction procedures for new staff are basic, based around shadowing staff and reading the policies. The process is verbal and raises issues of consistency and ability to monitor progress effectively. This is a matter which the managers are aware of and plan to address.

Staff and children have opportunities to discuss the organisation issues of the club and their input is valued. The club is effectively managed by the joint owners who are committed to providing fun, good quality after school care to the children and families they serve.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection a lost child policy has been produced and all staff are aware of the procedures to follow.

Complaints since the last inspection

Concerns were raised about the number of staff to children present and the effects of behaviour management at the setting. This relates to National Standard 1 Suitability, Standard 2 Organisation and Standard 11 Behaviour. We asked the provider to investigate and report back to Ofsted within 7 working days.

The provider reported back supplying supporting documentation in evidence and having taken the following actions: to speak to all staff; introduce a staff signing in

sheet which would aid the registered persons in monitoring staff attendance and deployment; explain changes to parents and continue to review the behaviour policy. Recommendation has been made to ensure that the setting remain within their registered numbers at all times and that any rare and exceptional emergency situation, related to continuity of care of a child, be notified to Ofsted and is time limited with Ofsted consent. Ofsted is satisfied that the provider has addressed the concerns appropriately and remains qualified for registration.

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 parents only access information relating to their child when signing accident records
- develop staff induction procedures to enable monitoring and consistency

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