



Hartford Out of School & Holiday Scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY311866
Inspection date	19 April 2006
Inspector	Heidi Falconer
Setting Address	Hartford County Infant & Junior School, Mayfield Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 1UL
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Registered person	Rasila Panchal
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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?

Hartford Out of School and Holiday Playscheme is one of 3 settings run by a private owner. It opened in 2005 and operates from 1 room in Hartford County Junior and Infants School. It is situated in the village of Hartford on the outskirts of Huntingdon. A maximum of 24 children may attend the setting at any one time. The setting is open each weekday from 08:15 to 08:45 and from 15:15 to 17:45 during school term time. The setting also operates a holiday playscheme during school holidays. This operates from 08:00 to 18:00. All children have access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 27 children from 5 to 11 years on roll. Children come from the local area. The setting employs 2 staff. Both of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early year's qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted soundly as staff take positive steps to ensure that they are protected from the risk of cross-infection. Staff wash their hands before preparing food and ensure that the tables are cleaned before snack time. Children are beginning to understand about the importance of personal hygiene. With sensitive reminders by staff they wash their hands before meal times and after using the toilet. Children's medical needs are generally well met because parental consents for first aid and the administration of medication are obtained and staff hold current first aid certificates. However, if the children have an accident at the setting, accident report forms are not consistently shared with parents. This compromises children's health and safety.

Children are appropriately nourished and have adequate opportunities to learn about healthy eating. The setting provides children with regular drinks and foods that are nutritious and comply with their dietary and religious needs. However, the snacks are provided at a set time each day and therefore do not allow children to eat in accordance with their bodies needs. At snack time children choose from a selection of fruit which is followed by a biscuit. Children are encouraged to have some fruit before they have a biscuit, helping them to learn about making healthy choices.

Children enjoy regular opportunities to experience physical activity and develop their skills. Children enjoy playing football and making up their own games outdoors. Children have the space to 'chill out' and relax in quiet areas with their friends. This ensures that all children benefit from physical activity and quiet time so they are happy and content.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children use a good range of safe equipment and resources that are appropriate for their age and stage of development. The setting provides furniture, equipment and toys which are appropriate for their purpose, are in good condition and conform to safety standards. This ensures that all children can play safely.

Children are cared for in a safe, well-maintained environment where risks are minimised. This allows them to move around safely and independently under the supervision of the staff. Staff have a good understanding of potential risks to children and take action to minimise these. Daily checks are carried out at the beginning of each session to ensure all areas used by the children are safe. Children's safety is further supported because the staff have appropriate policies and procedures in

place. For example, staff have considered and developed procedures of what they would do if a child got lost or was uncollected.

Children learn to keep themselves safe as staff explain the dangers to them. This helps them to develop their understanding of hazards and to take responsibility for themselves. For example, children practise the fire escape plan on a regular basis so that they all know what to do in an emergency. Records of these practises are recorded accurately.

Children's welfare is protected appropriately because staff have a sound understanding of their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. This means that children are protected and kept safe from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are lively and confident, chatting readily to staff, visitors and each other throughout the session demonstrating that they are very relaxed and comfortable in the setting. Children are warmly greeted into the setting by staff. As a result they settle well and are happy and confident. To further create a welcoming environment children's art work is displayed prominently. This shows children that their creations are valued thus developing their self-esteem.

All children are encouraged to spend their time purposefully. Children enjoy the time at the end of the school day when they can relax or be active in accordance with their needs and interests. A variety of activities and equipment are set out ready for the children's arrival each day. On the day of inspection children came into the room and quickly became engaged in a free painting activity, selecting additional resources as they required them. Children are supported by caring and responsive staff who work well as a team to support children's play and provide plenty of opportunities for fun. During the holiday playscheme children enjoy a wide range of activities such as T-shirt painting, making models from plaster of Paris as well as trips out to the local cinema.

Some resources are stored to allow children to access them independently, allowing them to pursue their interests. This enhances the children's enjoyment at the group. However, children often need reminders from staff that they can access toys freely.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's behaviour is good. They play harmoniously with others, negotiating their play and sharing popular resources such as the Play Station. This is well supported by staff who encourage them to write their name on a list, allowing children to easily see when it is their turn. This contributes positively to children developing good

self-esteem and respect for others. Children have opportunities to present their views, such as helping to formulate the rules of the setting and contributing ideas about activities and equipment they would like. This helps them to feel included in the life of the setting and feel a sense of belonging.

Children are provided with equality of opportunity. There is no bias in the setting's practice in relation to gender, race or disability. Children are developing an understanding of the wider society because the setting ensures that there are adequate resources such as books and small world toys to promote a positive view of the wider multicultural society.

The friendly partnership with parents and carers contributes towards the children's care, well-being and feelings of security. Daily discussions with parents ensure that all important information is shared. Most policies are available to parents although there is not yet a system in place to share records of complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation of the environment and the effective deployment of staff ensure that children feel secure and are happily engaged in activities. Resources are generally well organised to allow children the space to move around and play in safety. Staff have a positive attitude to developing the provision to enable them to continue to support children's welfare and safety.

Children safety and welfare is protected because there is an effective system in place for the recruitment of staff. All staff are vetted appropriately. They are supported through an initial probation period in which they receive a full induction programme. This practice ensures that all staff working with children are suitable and that they have appropriate skills to work with children. All staff are well informed of their roles. This ensures that there is consistency throughout the team. The management and organisation of the setting ensures the practice of all staff contributes positively to children's good health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to take an active part in the setting.

A full range of policies and procedures are in place to protect children. These are implemented well by staff to ensure that all of the outcomes for children are promoted effectively. All of the required documentation is in place to promote children's care. These are stored appropriately to ensure that records remain confidential whilst being easily accessible in the event of an emergency. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration. 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):

- develop a system for recording complaints which can be shared with parents
- develop further opportunities for children to freely access resources
- ensure that all accident records are shared with parents appropriately.

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