



Schools Out Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	501476
Inspection date	18 April 2006
Inspector	Julie Wright

Setting Address	Edgeley Methodist Church Hall, Old Chapel Street, Edgeley, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 9HA
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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?

Schools Out club at Edgeley Methodist Church Hall provides care for a maximum of 60 children, aged from 4 years. There are currently 107 children on roll. The After School Club is open five days a week, from when schools finishes until 18.00, term time only. The holiday club is open from 08.00 to 18.00 hours during the school holidays, except at Christmas and Bank Holidays.

During term time children are collected from local schools including Our Lady's Primary School, Alexandra Park Infant and Junior Schools, Cheadle Heath Primary School, Larkhill Primary School and St Matthews Primary School. They are escorted

to the club by staff either by walking or using the bus.

The club operates from the two halls of the building. One of the halls is smaller than the other and can be separated from the other one by folding doors. The club also has access to two small rooms. One of them is used for messy play and the other one for quieter activities. There is an enclosed outside play area.

The club policies and procedures are available to parents.

Nine staff work with the children, six of them have appropriate childcare qualifications and three are working towards a suitable early years qualification. The club is accredited to the National Day Nurseries Association quality assurance scheme 'Quality Counts'.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from risk of illness and infection through clear policies and procedures. Hygiene standards are satisfactory, children are independent and reasonably competent in their personal care. Suitable procedures are in place to record accident and medication details, which promote health and safety.

Children are well hydrated and benefit from easy access to water and fresh fruit throughout the sessions. They develop independent skills as they help themselves to drinks and use knives to spread food at snack time. Children take packed lunches and enjoy a relaxed sociable lunchtime together. Individual dietary requirements are discussed and recorded to meet the needs of children.

Children use a variety of equipment to develop physical skills during indoor and outdoor play. Staff organise team games and 'Fit-Kids' sessions so children become aware of the purpose of exercise. Children are well organised and cooperative as they play ball games together. Staff give appropriate support and encouragement to younger children in their activities. Older children are confident and independent as they organise their own games.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in reasonably maintained and suitable premises. Areas are clearly defined for sports activities, games and creative play. Children have sufficient space to play and move around with confidence.

Children have access to a sufficiently varied range of equipment and toys which are suitably maintained. Resources are checked frequently for safety and routinely cleaned. Children confidently make choices and their requests for particular toys are responded to by staff. Children use the imaginative play area by choice and play

independently without adult intervention.

Effective policies and procedures are in place to promote safety for children. Staff have a clear understanding of safety issues and supervise the children generally well. They ensure that overall ratios are maintained and provide appropriate cover during lunch breaks. Hazards are minimised to prevent accidents as staff regularly complete and review risk assessments. Children show understanding of safety, for example, they know not to retrieve footballs that go onto the road. They are familiar with the rules and boundaries which keep them safe when playing games in the main hall.

Staff demonstrate a clear understanding of child protection procedures. They attend appropriate training to update knowledge and awareness of child protection issues. Parents are informed of the procedures through a written policy statement. The welfare of children is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and clearly enjoy themselves in the setting. They are sociable and have good relationships with the staff and each other. Children are interested and well occupied throughout the session as they move around activities with confidence. Staff plan a good range of creative activities which link to current themes and events. Children make puppets, take part in a quiz and enjoy glass painting and egg decorating at Easter. Staff provide suitable levels of support to the children and interact well with them, instigating or joining in games. They encourage children to be independent, such as trying to cut out before being given help.

Children are cooperative and play well together, they follow rules as they play games and share table toys. They are confident and communicate easily with staff, for example, requesting use of specific toys. They choose where they want to play, such as in the main hall for physical play, or in the other areas for various activities. The quiet room provides some opportunities for children to relax, watch television, read books or play with puppets. However, the activities in this area do not always retain children's interest as they are distracted by others. Children feel valued as they contribute some of their own ideas to the planning for play. Continuity of care promotes a sense of belonging in children, for instance, some of the older children enjoy helping with the younger children during the session.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children become aware of similarity and difference through a suitable range of activities and use of resources which reflect diversity. A clear equal opportunities policy is in place and implemented by staff. They know the personalities and preferences of children well and effectively meet individual needs. Staff have a clear understanding and awareness of special needs issues. The setting has effective systems in place to promote inclusion and provide appropriate support to children.

Children respond well to the staff and the positive methods they use to manage behaviour. Children learn to take responsibility for their behaviour, for example, they organise a rota to take turns on electronic games. Children are involved in writing the group rules and clearly understand boundaries and expectations of behaviour. Staff promote self-esteem in children as they praise their achievements.

Staff develop positive working relationships with parents. Information is available on the setting and there is a detailed policy and a procedure file. A notice board and regular newsletter keep parents informed of planned activities and events. Staff seek parent's views on the care and receive positive feedback about the provision.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for in safe and suitable premises. Robust recruitment and vetting procedures are in place which ensure staff have appropriate qualifications and experience. Staff undertake appropriate first aid training and the majority have a current first aid certificate. A consistent staff team organises a wide range of activities which promote children's interest. Routines effectively meet the needs of children to keep them well occupied and make them feel secure. Children are well organised and they make good use of the facilities.

Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place and are effective in practice. Records and documentation are maintained in good order. Staff share and record appropriate information to promote continuity of care for children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked: to improve planning to ensure activities are changed more frequently during the session, especially in the holiday club, and to further develop the imaginative play area to maintain children's interest and enthusiasm; to include the outside area on risk assessments so that children are not exposed to hazards, such as drains and rubbish; to record injuries a child may have on arrival at the holiday club and to improve the methods of recording by witnesses.

Since then planning has developed to ensure activities are regularly rotated, additional resources have been bought for the imaginative play area and the outside area is risk assessed, with work on drains completed and hazards removed. Pre-existing injuries are recorded and relevant documentation is maintained. These actions have resulted in improvements to the safety and welfare of the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they

can see on request. The complaint 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:

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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):

- improve the opportunities for children to relax and play quietly, undisturbed by the activities of others.

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