



## **St Luke's After School Club**

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 503794

**Inspection date** 12 June 2006

**Inspector** Denise Sixsmith

**Setting Address** St. Lukes C E Primary School, Jubilee Road, Formby,  
Liverpool, Merseyside, L37 2HW

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**Registered person** St Lukes After School Club Committee

**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](http://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?

St Luke's After School and Holiday Club is operated by a committee. It opened in September 2001 and is based in St Luke's C E Primary school in Formby. The club operates from four classrooms and the main school hall, a small snack and quiet room, kitchen and first aid room are also available. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The school is situated within walking distance of the train station, local bus routes, shops, park and nature reserve.

There are currently 45 children aged from three to under eight years on roll. Children up to the age of 11 years also attend the group. All children attend for a variety of

sessions. The club provides care for children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language. It is open five days a week during term time from 08:00 to 08:45 and 15:15 to 17:45, except on Fridays when it operates from 08:00 to 08:45 and 14:45 to 17:45. A holiday club operates for eight weeks a year from 08:00 to 18:00.

There are seven staff, including the manager, who work on a full and part time basis with the children. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting is a member of the Kids Club Network and receives support from the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are very well protected from the risk of cross-infection and benefit from a good standard of hygiene throughout the setting. Staff consistently follow good health and hygiene practices and have undertaken training in food hygiene procedures. Children are reinforcing their learning of how to be healthy and follow good hygiene practices as the staff are vigilant and explain why good hygiene is important. Children know about germs and wash their hands readily as part of daily routines, in particular before engaging in cooking activities when protective headwear and aprons are worn. They proudly show visitors their display about healthy living, including personal hygiene, produced as part of a planned topic.

Children are provided with a good range of regular outdoor activities that are planned by the staff. They develop their climbing and balancing skills confidently on the challenging activity trail as well as being able to engage in less energetic activity in the wicker garden area.

Children are developing a very positive approach to healthy eating because they are provided with healthy snacks and drinks. They have the choice of a wholesome snack consisting of cheese or chicken wraps and pita bread served with salad and followed by fresh fruit kebabs. They effectively learn about healthy eating as they prepare and cook pizzas from a variety of fresh ingredients. Drinking water and fresh fruit juice is readily available enabling children to help themselves when thirsty or after exercise.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment, which is clean and well maintained. Ample space is available to organise the resources in a variety of rooms. This means that children are able to move around freely and safely. Children independently select toys from a good range of clean, safe equipment brought out of the store room by staff, prior to each session. Toys and equipment, which are regularly checked for safety, meet the needs of the children who attend.

Children are kept safe through staff's vigilance and good practice. They move freely and safely around the building where hazards are effectively minimised. Fire drills occur regularly so children are aware of evacuation procedures. Staff have a good awareness of security and a well designed entrance area ensures that there cannot be any unauthorised access to the children. Safe collection procedures ensure children leave with a known adult. A full written risk assessment, a daily check list and induction systems ensure new staff are aware of the procedures required to protect children and keep them safe.

Children are aware of safety rules because they have contributed to these through topics and activities. They proudly show visitors the display they have produced about safety, which encourages them to take responsibility for their own actions and the safety of others. Staff are very much aware of potential hazards and take positive steps to ensure children are kept free from harm. Children develop a good understanding about safety in the setting. Staff explain the reasons behind the need for rules and encourage children to develop their own understanding of why boundaries are set.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff demonstrate a clear understanding of potential signs of abuse and neglect; also of whom to contact in the event of identifying a child protection concern. The setting's written statement is well understood by staff and contains the required elements.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children engage enthusiastically in activities which are planned according to their ages, abilities and interests. Staff ensure that different types of activities are set up in the hall and classrooms each evening. This results in the children being purposefully occupied and offers them a wide range of activities over the week, including a free choice session. Children's ability to express themselves creatively is fostered effectively with opportunities for them to use a range of media and materials. They enjoy being able to sit together in the cookery room, sharing and comparing their ideas as they produce and decorate their Saint George flag pizza from the variety of ingredients supplied. Children play together in two's or small groups, using their initiative, for example to build a den. They play together imaginatively with small world equipment such as a castle, dolls house, cars and train set. Also, in the domestic role play area a good range of equipment and props enables children to use their own imagination.

Positive relationships are formed between staff and the children who are happy and settled. Staff are attentive to individual children. They value their contributions and take a genuine interest in what they are doing in their play. Children are keen to show staff what they have made. Staff in turn acknowledge their achievements resulting in raised levels of confidence and self-esteem.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Staff lead by example, emphasising the importance of being kind, friendly and respectful towards one another. Children know and understand the rules because they have contributed to their development. These include, being someone that you would like to know and keeping unkind words to yourself. Children help to tidy away equipment and use good manners at snack time. They effectively negotiate with each other and take responsibility for their own behaviour. Children are very well-behaved, polite, take turns and show concern for others.

Children learn about the wider world because staff invite a variety of community workers to support the topics and themes. Children eagerly involve themselves in local events and actively contribute to charity events. For example, raising funds by washing cars and collecting tins of dog and cat food for the local animal welfare shelter.

Children respond well to meaningful praise and this helps to raise their self-esteem and confidence. The group has a caring ethos. Children's individual needs are effectively met. This is because staff obtain the relevant information from parents and undertake appropriate training in order to be in a position to give individual good quality care. Parents are provided with a variety of information that includes access to the setting's policy statements and procedures. Regular newsletters, meetings and a detailed weekly display of planned activities also help to provide parents with essential information about the provision. However, the system to record and share complaints with parents has not been fully updated in line with current regulation. Parents are warmly welcomed and chat to staff when they collect their child and state that they are very happy with the service.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities, which serves to ensure children are appropriately cared for in the setting. Children receive high levels of adult attention with staff establishing routines in which children are familiar. Children are kept safe and healthy since staff show a good commitment in keeping up to date with training. Children benefit from the good systems of communication in place. This involves staff addressing any areas of concern or practice issues as they arise.

Children are cared for in a well organised environment because the staff have a clear sense of purpose. Space, both indoors and outdoors, is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. Well thought out policies and procedures are in place which assist the staff team to work well together to provide an effective service for the children. However, staff do not have a full knowledge of the recent update to the National Standards, consequently, some policies do not reflect current requirements.

Staff value the ideas and suggestions of individual children, as well as obtaining feedback from questionnaires, which assists in the planning of activities. Space and resources are well organised to keep children safe. Effective monitoring arrangements are in place to ensure the children's welfare is promoted and

confidentiality is observed. Children are assisted to develop their independence and create friendships because the staff have organised a stimulating, fun environment.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last care inspection, one recommendation was raised relating to opportunities for children to access all resources and make choices.

Since the last inspection, the recommendation has been considered and staff have incorporated more choice opportunities for children with regards to accessing resources and activities. Children are informed of the planned activities for the week on the notice board. They are informed daily of the activities and resources available during registration, consequently, they can decide when and what they wish to do. During the session children request their preferred toys from the store room if staff have not already set them out for that session. Children have a voice through the children's committee and questionnaires, enabling them to decide which new toys they think the group should purchase. They also have a free choice session one evening a week when they choose the activities and toys.

### **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 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):

- increase staff's knowledge of the Addendum to the National Standards and ensure that related policies and procedures are updated.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)