



The Hub Playscheme and After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	127690
Inspection date	11 May 2006
Inspector	Lisa Toole
Setting Address	High Street, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5AB
Telephone number	01732 867845
E-mail	
Registered person	The Hub Playscheme and After School Club
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Hub Playscheme and After School Club opened in 1997 and operates from a purpose built building in the grounds of Edenbridge County Primary School in Edenbridge, Kent. A maximum of 85 children may attend the after school club and 130 children may attend the playscheme at any one time. The after school club is open each weekday from 15.15 - 17.30 hours and the holiday play scheme is open 08.30 - 17.30 hours during school holidays. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 37 children aged from 3 to under 8 years on roll. The club

currently supports a number of children with special educational needs.

The club employs 5 staff; 4 of the staff hold appropriate early years/play work qualifications and 1 member of staff is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are being cared for in an environment which is very clean, tidy and well organised. Their good health is actively promoted through routine hand washing after visiting the toilet and before snack times. Staff reduce risks of cross infection by ensuring table surfaces are clean and the toilets are maintained to a very high standard. These effectively contribute to reducing risks of cross infection to the children. Children are provided with a comfortable and relaxing rest area, with large sofas and cushions within the dedicated quiet room so that children are able to chill out and rest according to their need. Staff have good procedures in place if a child is taken ill or has an accident and there are a sufficient number of qualified first aides who are trained to deal with any accidents.

Children are offered a range of snacks during the after school club, including beans on toast, pizzas and cakes they have made themselves and fresh fruit, which help promote healthy eating. Children can readily access drinks throughout the day themselves and are encouraged to drink plenty in hot weather to remain hydrated. During the holiday play scheme children bring in their own packed lunches and these are stored appropriately to prevent spoiling, with additional food provided, such as toast for those children who have not had breakfast.

Children enjoy both outdoor and indoor physical play and these activities offer good opportunities for children to exercise and stay healthy. During the inspection the children have great fun participating in a parachute game, all holding an edge of the parachute and running around it, billowing it up into the air and crawling under it. Children also enjoy table tennis, air hockey, pool and using the soft play equipment to jump around on.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are warmly greeted and they arrive and settle quickly in the child friendly environment. The physical environment is well organised, with a good amount of clear floor space and designated areas for physical play, role play, dressing up and art and craft. The rooms are enhanced with a painted mural and displays of the children's work, which all help create a sense of belonging for the children. There is an extensive range of play equipment, which is enjoyed and well used by the children. They can make their own choices about what they play with as the equipment is easily accessible in storage units around the rooms. Equipment is clean and well maintained, ensuring it is always suitable for the children's use.

Children enjoy their play in the safe and secure environment. There are thorough procedures in place for the alternative collection of children, the premises are secure and staff are vigilant about the children's whereabouts, especially when they are playing outdoors. Staff are well deployed and this also helps ensure the children are safe at all times. Staff have a clear understanding of the possible signs and symptoms of child abuse and know what action to take if they have concerns about a child in their care. This ensures staff can quickly recognise when a child is being abused and can act in the child's best interests.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and enjoy their time at the group and they have established good relationships with both their peers and adults. Children interact positively with each other, they play co-operatively and join in activities with enthusiasm. The children benefit from the warm and friendly relationships they have with the staff, who are enthusiastic, listen to what the children have to say and show genuine interest in what they are doing.

There is a wide range of age appropriate equipment and it is well used by the children. The equipment available allows children to make choices about what they do and play with and whether they want active or quiet activities such as playing board games. Children are offered an interesting and diverse array of activities which are fun and stimulating. Children make their own pizzas and have them for tea, they make camps and do dressing up, use a bouncy castle in summer and learn how to do needlework. The children also thoroughly enjoy the visits from people such as an African band where they learnt to do African dancing and storytelling with drums; the zoo lab has visited, enabling the children to hold and learn about all different kinds of animals and insects, including tarantulas.

Children speak about the group with enthusiasm and fondness. They talk about how they like doing the art and craft where they can make what they want. They also like using the dressing up clothes in their imaginative play and have fun digging for worms in the sand pit, trying to find the biggest and learning how to handle creatures gently.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have established secure relationships with both the adults and their peers in the group and they are encouraged to have a sense of belonging. They are treated and respected as individuals and are given many opportunities to be independent and make their own decisions about what they do and play with. Equal opportunities are promoted throughout the club, children learn about being kind and having good manners, they learn about the world around them through everyday resources and through the celebration of festivals such as Chinese New year. Children with special educational needs are included just as much as any other child and staff work closely

in partnership with parents to ensure each child's needs are understood and are being appropriately supported.

Praise and encouragement form the basis for the group's behaviour management strategies, with a focus on positive reinforcement and clear strategies for dealing with any negative behaviour. Children understand and like the sticker reward system, as they get a gold sticker for being kind and helpful. They also know that they get a black sticker to represent negative behaviour and that if they get too many they may miss out on a trip.

Staff work in partnership with parents to meet the needs of the children. They receive verbal feedback about their child's day so they are kept informed about their child and are able to feel involved. The parents' notice boards are informative, with the group's policies and procedures on display, along with the required details of how to make a complaint if they are unhappy with any aspect of the care their children receive. In discussion with parents, they comment that their children enjoy coming to the club and they are happy with the care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

All mandatory records and policies are in place and are generally well maintained, which helps ensure the effective management of the group in order to safeguard the children's welfare. The exceptions are the register of attendance, which does not show accurate arrival and departure times and the visitors and accident records, which lack some detail.

There are clear recruitment and induction procedures in place, staff have a secure understanding of their role and work well together as a team, which helps ensure the sessions run smoothly. All staff undergo the necessary checks to protect the children and any persons who have not been vetted are not left unsupervised with the children.

Staff are well organised, offer a stimulating programme of activities and ensure the premises and equipment is safe and suitable for the children's use. They make effective use of the available indoor and outdoor space to maximise children's play opportunities as well as inviting interesting visitors in to the group to extend the children's learning and enjoyment.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group was set four recommendations in relation to documentation and the range of resources to promote equalities. The group has since produced a special education needs policy, which is easily accessible to parents. The required complaints procedure is in place and also on display so that parents are aware of what to do if they are unhappy about any aspect of the

provision. The accident record is now maintained in a much clearer manner and parents are asked to countersign it to ensure they are aware of any accident their child may have had. There is now an increased range of resources to promote equalities, the children celebrate cultural and religious festivals, which helps increase their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- ensure that all documentation is maintained with sufficient detail and that the register of attendance shows accurate times of arrival and departure.

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