



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 300821

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	07/07/2003
Inspector Name	Maureen Denise Gascoyne

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Out of School Day Care
Setting Name	Meersbrook Park After School Club
Setting Address	The Pavillion Meersbrook Park Road Sheffield S8 9FP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Meersbrook Park After School Club
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Meersbrook Park After School Club
Address	The Pavillion Meersbrook Park Road Sheffield S8 9FP

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

Information about the setting

Meersbrook Park After School Club provides after school care for up to 24 children aged between four and eleven years. The club is located in Meersbrook Park Community Pavilion, in Meersbrook, a residential area to the south of Sheffield city centre. It caters for children attending Meersbrook Bank and Carfield Primary schools. Children are escorted to the facility on foot.

The OOS club is open five days a week from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. during term time. Two rooms are available for children's use, and there are adequate toilet facilities and a kitchen. Children have access to a secure outdoor play space.

Forty two children currently attend the OOS club. All those currently attending speak English as their first language. Places are available for children who have Special Educational Needs, but none are currently on roll.

Three members of staff work with the children, all of whom hold or are working towards a relevant qualification in childcare. The OSS club, which is run by a voluntary management committee, has links with the Local Partnership and receives support from the Out of School Network.

How good is the Day Care?

Meersbrook Park After School Club provides satisfactory care for children aged 4 -11 years.

The club is well organised and run by experienced staff, all of whom have, or are working towards, relevant qualifications. As changes to staff are rare, children are provided with a continuity of care which helps them to feel secure. Staff work well together as a team to provide a relaxed and stimulating environment for school aged children. The day to day running of the facility is effective but staff do not always have access to appropriate policies to ensure a consistent approach.

Staff are aware of safety issues and take appropriate steps to ensure that children are well monitored and protected from potential hazards. With the exception of one or two minor safety hazards, the premises are safe for children's use. Staff have regard for the well being of the children, know the children well and ensure that their individual needs are met. Staff provide good role models and give attention to children's personal hygiene.

Staff plan well, and provide a wide and interesting range of stimulating activities suitable for the age range. Activities are flexible enough to accommodate children's individual choice. Staff are warm and receptive, listen and respond to the children and encourage them to develop new skills. Children's behaviour is good. Staff value and respect the children and actively encourage them to be considerate towards others. The promotion of equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice is good.

There is a good partnership with parents and carers, and staff enable good communication through a regular exchange of information about their children. Parents could be better informed about the club's policies and procedures. All relevant paperwork is in place.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the time of the last inspection no actions or timed conditions were imposed. Staff have been designated to co-ordinate Special Needs, Behaviour Management and Child Protection within the setting. The Equal Opportunities Policy and procedures has been reviewed.

What is being done well?

- - The facility is well organised and provides a wide range of interesting and challenging activities for children of school age, in a relaxed and welcoming environment (Standards 2, 3 and 5)
- - The staff have good relationships with the children, and are warm and responsive in meeting their individual needs and in encouraging them to develop new skills. (Standards 3 and 9)
- - The children are happy and settled, and respond well to each other and to members of staff. (Standards 3 and 11)
- - Children are encouraged to influence the running of the facility and implement positive changes. (Standard 9 and 11)
- - The promotion of the equality of opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice is good, and children are encouraged to be tolerant and caring towards others. (Standards 3, 5, 9 and 11)

What needs to be improved?

- - policies need to be devised that are consistent with current legislation and guidance, and are understood and implemented by all staff and shared with parents
- - risk assessment on the premises identifying action(s) to be taken to minimize identified risks
- - the security of the outdoor play area
- - the safe storage of records

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?**The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
6	make sure that outdoor play area is secure and that children are unable to leave it unsupervised
6	conduct a risk assessment on the premises identifying action(s) to be taken to minimize identified risks
7	devise and implement a policy about smoking, care of sick children, administration of medicines and dealing with accidents / incidents and make sure staff are made aware of it
10	devise and make available to parents, a written statement on special needs which is consistent with current legislation and guidance. Ensure that this is understood and implemented by all staff
12	make available to parents an updated written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint
14	devise and implement a policy about the procedures for lost or uncollected children and make sure staff are made aware of it
14	ensure that all records relating to day care activities are kept securely on the premises

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.