



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 110656

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 09/11/2004
Inspector Name Jacqueline, Ann Connell

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name The Oaks After School Club
Setting Address St. Johns Infant School
West End Road
Mortimer
Berkshire
RG7 3SY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of The Oaks After School Club

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name The Oaks After School Club
Address St. Johns Infant School
West End Road, Mortimer
Reading
Berkshire
RG7 3SY

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

The Oaks After School Club has been registered for five years. It is situated in the village of Mortimer and is managed by a committee of parents and school representatives. It provides after school care for rising fives, in full time education, up to eleven years of age. The club is registered to take 32 children in total but, at the present time, it takes 24 children each session. It operates from Monday to Friday, during term time, between 15:30 and 18:00 hrs.

The club uses premises at the St Johns Infant School, Mortimer and children attend from this school and St Mary's Junior School in Mortimer. The children who attend from St Mary's Junior School arrive by bus and are collected from the bus stop by a member of the club's staff. The club uses the school hall and library with the exception of Wednesdays when a classroom may be used for the first 45 minutes of the session. There is an outdoor play area. The children are given drinks and a sandwich tea. Children at St Johns school are able to attend extra curricular activities after school before attending the club.

The club operates with three members of staff, including the leader and deputy leader who have both been recently appointed and are receiving training in playwork and first aid.

How good is the Day Care?

The Oaks After School Club provides satisfactory care.

The staff are aware of their responsibilities, have suitable skills to work with children and are committed to training to increase their knowledge and understanding of the work. They provide a very warm, welcoming and friendly atmosphere where children feel comfortable and relaxed. They organise the play room so the children can take part in a variety of activities and can be well supervised although they do not have a cosy, quiet area where children can rest. They have a wide variety of stimulating and challenging toys which meet all the children's needs. They keep most of the required documentation and ensure the records are stored securely so confidentiality can be maintained.

The staff have done a risk assessment, are aware of potential hazards and have procedures in place to reduce risks. They follow good hygiene routines in order to keep the children healthy and encourage them to learn about good personal

hygiene. They ensure the children have a constant supply of drinks available and offer healthy food at tea time. They are aware of their responsibility to protect children and understand the procedures in the event of a child protection concern.

They provide a very broad range of well planned and exciting activities. They understand that all the children are individuals and respect and value the needs of each child. They have a very a positive attitude to caring for children with special needs and make sure that they feel included. They praise and encourage good behaviour and have very good strategies for managing behaviour.

They work closely with parents and welcome them into the group. They give them good information about the policies and procedures and keep them informed of their child's progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- The staff provide a number of well planned and exciting activities which challenge the children and are enjoyable. They ensure these are balanced in order to meet the needs of the older children as well as those who have just started school. They offer opportunities for construction games, board games and creative art work as well as more energetic activities such as dancing or playing in the outdoor play area.
- They build good relationships with the children and know them well. They speak to them in an informal and friendly manner and respect the fact that the children have been working in school all day and need time for relaxation. They are able to offer support and encouragement without being too directive or intrusive.
- They encourage the children to take responsibility for behaviour within the club by involving them in creating the basic ground rules. The children decide, for instance, that all club members should be welcoming and should show respect to other people and their property. They are then able to remind one another if they do not comply with the rules and, as a result, they behave well. The older children particularly value the additional responsibility they are given.
- They offer a very wide selection of stimulating toys and equipment which are attractive, in good condition and capture the children's interest. They have an especially exciting selection of unusual craft materials which encourage the children to use their imagination and to be creative.

What needs to be improved?

- Layout of the room, so there is a comfortable area where children can relax and rest.

- Security of premises, so children are kept safe.
- Documentation, so there is written consent from parents for seeking emergency treatment or advice, a record of the children's actual time of arrival and departure and contact details for Ofsted are included in the complaints procedure.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

Since the last inspection Ofsted have not received any complaints about this provider.

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
4	Investigate ways an area can be provided where children can rest or unwind in comfort.
6	Make sure that premises are secure and that children are unable to leave them unsupervised and that unexpected adults are not able to gain access.
14	Ensure all the required documentation is in place and includes written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment, records of the children's actual times of arrival and departure and the address and contact number for Ofsted in the complaints procedure.

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.