



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 315260

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	08/02/2005
Inspector Name	David Corcoran

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Out of School Day Care
Setting Name	Appleton Thorn Link Club
Setting Address	Appleton Thorn School, Arley Road Appleton Thorn Warrington Cheshire WA4 4RZ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Joyce Hilary Kernahan
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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

Appleton Thorn Link Club is a privately run before and after school club. It is one of a group of clubs established by the provider, Joyce Kernahan, to offer out of school care in local schools.

The club is based in Appleton Thorn County Primary School, located in Appleton Thorn village, near Warrington. It operates in a classroom within the main school building and there is easy access to boys and girls toilets in the corridor outside. Outdoor play is provided in the school playground and playing fields.

The club is registered to provide care for a maximum of twenty four children aged from four to under eight years and is open Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 09:00 and 15:00 to 18:00, term time only. It is staffed by a supervisor and two assistants, all of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications.

There are currently 38 children on roll aged from four years.

How good is the Day Care?

Appleton Thorn Link Club provides good care for children. The number of qualified staff present exceeds minimum requirements and they are effectively deployed. This ensures that children are safe, well looked after and their individual needs are met. Good use is made of the play space to create a variety of activity areas to support children's play and enjoyment. There is a good range of play materials and resources which children are able to access easily. Good policy statements, procedures and record-keeping ensures safe management of the children.

Staff are aware of health and safety procedures and generally implement them effectively to ensure that children are kept safe, although the ineffective floor covering under the craft table and overdue checks of electrical appliances slightly undermine these. Staff guidance and daily routines make children aware of safety and good hygiene. Children's individual health, dietary and special needs are known to staff and any concerns about their welfare are addressed.

Play activities are well planned, interesting, varied and stimulating. Children engage in a variety of activities which give them the opportunity to develop their imagination and creativity. They are encouraged to make decisions and develop their own ideas. Children's opinions are valued and they are given praise and encouragement,

boosting confidence and self-esteem. Good behaviour and respect for others is encouraged, resulting in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere where children interact positively and play happily together. Staff interaction with the children is positive, friendly and supportive.

There are effective partnerships with parents, who receive considerable written information about the setting. Staff are friendly and approachable and happy to discuss children's progress with parents. Parents have expressed their happiness with the care provided.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Snack time arrangements have improved. Children now sit together at tables in a social atmosphere and are now able to help themselves to drinks at any time.

The stock of play equipment has been improved to include resources providing positive images of race, culture, gender and disability, promoting children's awareness and respect for diversity.

Issues relating to Child Protection have been improved. All current staff have had training and have the skills and understanding to ensure children's welfare. The Child Protection statement also now includes procedures relating to allegations of abuse against a member of staff and is made available to parents.

What is being done well?

- There is effective use of space and resources. Different areas are appropriately equipped to provide a variety of play experiences. Children have the opportunity to move freely from one activity area to another.
- Play is well planned. Each session offers a well balanced range of activities to maintain interest. Children are able to express their imagination and creativity through different art and craft activities, role play and construction. There are opportunities to relax and play independently or work together in groups.
- Staff's interaction with the children is warm, consistent and supportive. Children are happy, settled and confident in their surroundings. They are encouraged to make choices and use their imagination. Staff show interest, praise children's achievements and ask questions to promote discussion and develop ideas. Children are made to feel special, promoting confidence and an eagerness to express themselves.
- Play resources and displays provide positive images of people of all races, cultures and abilities. Children engage in themed activities which raises their awareness and helps them value each others' similarities and differences.
- Good manners, politeness and respect for others are actively promoted. Staff provide positive role models and encourage children to play happily together, share, take turns and show respect for one another.

What needs to be improved?

- safety, to ensure that the floor covering in the messy play area of the playroom does not pose a risk of injury to children and to ensure that electric appliances are safe to use.

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.)

There are no complaints to report from 1st April 2004.

Outcome of the inspection

Good

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	Ensure that there are appropriate safety arrangements for floor coverings and electrical appliances.

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.