

# Fiona's Sparklers

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Inspector</b>	Gyatri Rupal

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<b>Type of inspection</b>	Care
<b>Type of care</b>	Out of School care

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## 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 provider must give a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must give a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Day Care and Childminding (inspection) (England) Regulations 2005 No 2300 Regulations 5 and 6).

### 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?**

Fiona's Sparklers out of school club opened in February 2007. It operates from Ickleford Primary School in the village of Ickleford, Hertfordshire. The club use a large hall, kitchen and toilet facility and outdoor fenced area for outside play. Currently children attending the club are from the Ickleford Primary School. A maximum of 26 children may attend the after school club at any one time. There are currently 17 children from four to eight years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports two children with disabilities.

The club opens five days a week during school term-times only. Sessions are from 15:00 until 18:00. The club's leader and deputy work full-time and three relief staff are available to cover staff absence. The club leader and deputy leader both hold National Vocational qualification to Level 3. The club's leader is working towards the Early Childhood degree course.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They are developing their physical skills, gaining in confidence using a range of play equipment safely and developing a positive attitude towards physical exercise. For example, children experience running, jumping and catching as they play various sports games such as rounders, football, tennis and cricket. Children enthusiastically create detailed models with different types of construction sets, complete jigsaws and mould play dough with hands.

Children begin to understand which foods are healthy and make healthy choices for themselves. For example, children have fun by putting the blindfold on their eyes and guessing the food by tasting. They talk about a healthy diet as they draw pictures of healthy and unhealthy foods. Children have access to drinking water and eat plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables. The staff take account of the wishes of parents and work with them closely to provide nutritious snacks and meals that appeal to the children in addition to meeting their dietary needs.

Children begin to understand the importance of good hygiene practices through well-managed routines. Children wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating and gentle reminders from staff ensure children learn the importance of this. Children's project work is on healthy lifestyle and they all enjoy brushing their teeth as they learn about personal care. All of the required documentation, policies and procedures are in place to support the well-being of children. For example, the required consents and details are in place to act in the children's best interests should they become unwell or need emergency medical treatment.

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

The provision is good.

Children feel safe and secure as they enjoy various activities in a safe and welcoming environment. Children's safety is paramount as the staff work hard to implement the club's policies and procedures which contribute to the children's safety and security. Systematic daily risk assessments are carried out and all of the staff are responsible for keeping the children safe. Activities and play resources are well planned to ensure children move around freely and have safe access to play resources. Children are learning to take responsibility and keep themselves safe through topic work and discussions with staff. Staff provide practical experiences to help children understand how to stay safe. For example, children are given a first aid safety session from staff and have completed a project on road safety. Children become inspectors as they carry out the risk assessment of their play equipment and play area. Children understand what action to take if there is a fire as they regularly practise fire drills with staff.

Children are well protected from possible abuse or neglect. The staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures in line with the Safeguarding Children Board procedures. The club also makes sure parents are well informed of the adult's duty to protect children by providing child protection information and policy for parents. Although, the club's child protection policy and procedures are written in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's guidance, it does not include the contact telephone numbers of the local police and local social services. This means adults may not be able to take immediate action if they have concerns about the children's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and well settled as the club provides a stimulating environment for children. Children enjoy taking part in a wide range of activities throughout the session. Activities are well planned beforehand and are evaluated. The staff consult children when planning activities so that they can fully enjoy their play. Children are made aware of the safe practice and procedure for each activity. Children are relaxed and occupied throughout the session. They are confident in initiating their own play and are excited by the various challenges on offer. Children learn to share when playing games. For example, when playing a board game they set their own rules and take turns.

Children feel a strong sense of belonging as they draw a picture of themselves and see it displayed on the notice board as a club member. They have built a valuable rapport with the staff and are respectful of their input. They happily talk about their own needs and interests as they participate in a group discussion or discuss on a one-to-one basis. This includes talking about what they did during their school

holidays and their favourite foods. The staff encourage children to work together as they organise group activities and competitions for children. For example, children enjoy becoming fashion models. They develop their confidence as they act out their story and have fun dancing in the rain. Children feel proud designing their own dream catchers and five friends puppets. Their regular use of a wide range of creative materials encourages them to represent their experiences, feelings and ideas in a variety of ways. Parents are well informed about the activities available at the club as the staff display the week's main activities programme on the notice board.

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

The provision is good.

All children are made to feel welcome and play a full part within the club as staff value and respect their individuality. Children are receptive to the constant praise and encouragement that is provided by staff. This has a clear impact on their self-esteem and encourages them to try new tasks and participate in activities. The setting ensures premises and play resources are suitable and easily accessible to cater for all children with differing needs. Additional help is given by staff to help children with a disability. Children have access to a meaningful range of activities to promote a positive view of the local community and increase their awareness of diversity. For example, children organise a multicultural fashion show for parents and other children in the school. They enjoy dressing up in clothes which represent different cultures. Children raise money for charity to help the local community. Children also play an active role in keeping their environment clean and tidy.

Children are friendly and behave well as they have a good understanding of the boundaries within the club. All children have the opportunity to draw pictures of their expected behaviour rules and display them in the club. Any new children joining the club are given an explanation of the club's rules and asked to draw their expectations of good behaviour. The rules of the setting are displayed in the hall and are reinforced by the staff if required. Children develop good levels of self-esteem as they are able to resolve differences and gain an understanding between right and wrong. This also has the effect of building their management skills and self-reliance. Children learn to listen to others and respect their feelings as they are making a documentary video on how to stop bullying.

A good partnership with parents contributes significantly to the children's well-being in the club. Parents' views about their children's needs and interests are actively sought, both before the children start at the club, and on a regular basis throughout their time there. The club ensures parents are well informed about their children's daily activities and the setting's policies and procedures. The parents are welcome to give their views and discuss their concerns with staff at any time or put a note in the parents' view box. This helps children and parents build a trusting relationship with staff.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and well settled due to the good organisation. Their play opportunities are greatly enhanced by the good organisation of play resources and well-planned activities. Children are well protected as the club has robust procedures in place for checking that all staff are suitable to work with children. All staff have useful knowledge of the National Standards, which they are committed to applying. The staff work well with each other and with the parents which helps build a trusting relationship with the children. The staff are very friendly, keen to work extensively with the children and successfully manage and organise their play. Most documentation, policies and procedures are in place and are updated regularly to promote the children's care and safety. The club is very committed to improve the quality of care they provide as they effectively carry out their self-evaluation. Children are very happy at the setting as they explained to the inspector that they enjoy coming to the club because they have lots of fun at the club. Overall, all children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints about the childcare provision**

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 child protection procedure includes contact names and telephone number for the local police and local authority social services department.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2473)* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)