

Acorns Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number

EY233210

Inspection date

14/07/2010

Inspector

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Setting address

Hampstead Norreys Village Hall, Newbury Hill, Hampstead
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Type of setting

Childcare - Non-Domestic

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Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

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Description of the setting

The Acorns Out of School Club registered in April 2002. The club operates from the village hall in Hampstead Norreys near Newbury in Berkshire. It is supported by a management committee. The club provides after-school care, predominately for children attending nearby Hampstead Norreys Primary School.

The club is registered on the Early Years Register and on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register to provide after-school care for 24 children aged from four to under eight years old, currently there are 66 children on roll, of these, four are in the early years age range. The setting opens from Monday until Thursday from 3.15pm until 5.45pm during school term times.

There are six members of staff that regularly work with the children, currently one of these has a relevant level 3 qualification, three others are currently on training programmes. The club receives support from the local authority.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children enjoy being at the after-school club. The skilled and dedicated staff team provide children with a very wide range of enjoyable activities that help them to progress and learn. All children are welcomed and valued at the club, the setting aims to be inclusive and to meet the children's individual needs. The out of school club has very strong links with the adjacent village primary school which most of the children currently attend, this ensures the efficient integration of the children's care and education. Since the last inspection the club has made many improvements and is effectively working towards meeting all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that the manager holds a relevant level 3 qualification and at least half of all other staff hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification (as defined by the CWDC) (Qualifications, training, knowledge and skills) (also applies to the compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 30/09/2010
- keep a record of the risk assessment clearly stating when it was carried out, by whom, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident. (Documentation) 30/08/2010

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- continue to develop a system of self-evaluation to identify and address any areas for future development.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The club is efficiently organised to ensure the children are happy and safe and that staff are working effectively towards meeting all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff are all appropriately checked and found suitable to work with young children, any unvetted adults do not have unsupervised access to the children. The children's safety and well-being are a priority in the group. There are very good safeguarding procedures in place that the staff know and understand, and which are shared with parents. A new member of staff with appropriate qualifications has been appointed and three others are attending relevant training. The setting is working steadily towards meeting the training action plan they were asked to put into place at the last inspection.

The children play in a light, airy and pleasant village hall. Before the children arrive from school the staff put out toys and equipment making the hall welcoming and inviting. Side doors open up onto the adjacent playing fields, allowing children free access to outside play. Staff have risk assessed well and minimised any potential hazards to the children; however, the risk assessments require a date for review. The premises are kept secure; a bell is used at the hall front doors so that parents can gain entry at collection times. When the children play outside staff always closely supervise them. The setting has a very good range of suitable resources and equipment available to the children. Children are able to ask for other toys they would like from the storage cupboards if the resources that they want to use are not put out.

Currently all the children attend from the nearby village school. The setting welcomes all children including those with special educational needs or disabilities and works very closely with the school and parents to ensure the children's individual educational and welfare needs are met. Parents are very supportive of the group and serve on the management committee. The club has met the actions for improvement set at the last inspection; staff have attended many training opportunities and parents are supplied with more of the required information. The manager has a clearer picture of the strengths and weaknesses of the setting and has targets in place for future improvement, but has not recently reviewed the previous systems for self-evaluation.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

The children clearly enjoy their time at the club; they play very well together and interact well with the staff. Because good adult/child ratios are maintained, the children are well supported and enjoy close relationships with the adults in the

group. A wide range of age-appropriate activities are offered each session. The children especially enjoy the different craft activities that are presented such as making masks and light catchers. They also enjoy playing on the fields outside or using the club's digital camera. The activities that the staff plan and offer promote the six early learning goals and complement the children's learning at school. The setting does not record the children's progress, but they link very closely with the school where the teachers carry out the necessary Early Years Foundation Stage recording. If children need extra help they work together to meet the children's individual learning requirements.

The club welcomes and values all children, it aims to be inclusive and is easily accessible with facilities for children and adults with disabilities. Children feel a strong sense of belonging to their club; they have written the club rules and have made an attractive display of them. They recently enjoyed re-organising and cataloguing the books in the book corner. The children behave very well; they show concern and consideration for others and play extremely well together, with older children supporting the younger ones. They concentrate well and persevere on their chosen activities. Children learn about keeping themselves safe. They take part in regular emergency evacuation practices and are learning about road safety. They know to pick up toys and resources from the floor so that they don't fall over them.

When the children first arrive at the club after school, they wash their hands and then sit chatting to their friends while waiting for their afterschool snack. The snack is varied and is always healthy and nutritious. Children choose what they wish to eat from a selection set out, this includes fruit, vegetables, cheese, toast and crackers. Occasionally the children help prepare the snack. They have a drink with their snack and then fresh drinking water is always available. If the children have any special dietary requirements or allergies these are well recorded and observed. The children are encouraged to follow good hygiene routines, for example, they are reminded to wash their hands whenever necessary.

Children have opportunities most days to play outside in the fresh air and practise their physical skills. A trolley of outside play equipment is taken out so the children can use balls, rackets and bats, hoops and bean bags. They play team games and sometimes, under supervision, visit the climbing resources at the far end of the playing fields. The children communicate well; they happily exchange news with the staff and talk about their day at school. Through their regular activities, and through some of the resources they use, such as books, dressing up clothes and small world play, the children are gaining an understanding of diversity and the wider world.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	2

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report. 30/09/2010

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report. 30/09/2010