

Birdlip After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number 510053
Inspection date 17/04/2012
Inspector Debs Schindler

Setting address The Village Hall, Birdlip,, Gloucestershire, GL4 8JH

Telephone number 07967847850

Email

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

Birdlip After School Club has been registered since September 2001. The club is located in the village hall alongside the primary school, in the centre of Birdlip village, a small rural community in Gloucestershire. The village is within easy access of commuter routes to Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud and Cirencester. The club opens Monday to Friday during school term times. Sessions are from 3.15pm until 5.45pm. Children are able to attend a variety of sessions. The provision is registered on the Early Years Register and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of 25 children may attend at any one time. At present there are 62 children on roll aged from four to 11 years of age, three of whom are within the early years age group. Children are cared for within the main village hall. They have use of the school playground, playing field and adventure play area for outdoor activities. The club is run by a voluntary management committee. The club employs three members of staff; all hold appropriate qualifications.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at the club and make sound progress in their learning. A key person system is in place to ensure that children's individual needs are known and met. Staff use their satisfactory understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage when providing children with activities. The partnership with parents is good. Most required policies and procedures are in place to promote children's health and safety, however, children's welfare is potentially compromised, as two specific legal requirements are not met. A new committee evaluates the provision appropriately and is driving positive changes. Not all recommendations from the last inspection have been implemented; however capacity for further improvement is sound.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection with regard to hand washing (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 01/05/2012
- ensure the premises are secure. (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (Also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 01/05/2012

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

- improve organisation of outings by taking essential records and equipment, including contact telephone numbers for the parents of children and first aid kit
- extend self-evaluation in order to identify more accurately where systems need improvement to better meet children's individual needs.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Staff have a sound knowledge of safeguarding issues and are aware of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child in their care. Suitable employment procedures are in place and vetting checks are completed. All staff are appropriately qualified and hold current first aid certificates. Daily checks and risk assessment are effective in ensuring that potential hazards to children's safety are minimized on the premises. The premises are not secured when children are present, however, which has the potential to place them at risk and is a breach of a specific legal requirement. Additionally, staff do not take essential records and equipment with them when taking the children on outings, in order to safeguard them as well as possible at such times.

The club provides a friendly, informal environment where visitors, children and their families are made to feel welcome. There is an adequate range of resources and the children use the local school playground and field for outside space. Parents spoken to during the inspection commented positively on the setting and value the way children of different ages mix and the range of activities that their children enjoy. They stated that they feel confident to raise any issues with staff and feel that they and their children are well supported. They receive useful information about their children and the club. There are currently no children attending who have special educational needs and/or disabilities or those who speak English as an additional language; however, staff understand where to obtain advice if needed and the systems to follow. They are aware of the need to monitor the progress of groups of children and recently attended training on how best to support boys in play-based provision. This demonstrates too, the staff's wish to improve their practice. Partnerships with other providers where children attend are sufficient to promote consistency of care and learning appropriately.

The new committee is motivated to improve the provision and has implemented a number of suitable changes which have led to increased numbers of children attending. A staff appraisal system and a self-evaluation process, seeking staff and parental views about the club, have both been introduced. The latter has led to more activities for the children. Strengths and areas to improve have been accurately identified and some appropriate changes have been implemented. However, monitoring of this system is not sufficiently robust and therefore impact is limited; for example, not all recommendations from the previous inspection have been fully addressed.

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

Children settle well at the club. They freely chose from the toys available and know that they can ask for additional resources. Children engage in both self-selected and planned activities individually and also with others. Older children often help the younger ones and involve them in their creative play, and this contributes to the development of social skills. Each term the club staff plan a topic to support children's learning and the children are involved in the planning of related activities, which helps in developing their independence and confidence. Staff have a suitable knowledge of individual children's needs and support their progress towards the early learning goals satisfactorily.

Children have sufficient opportunities to explore and investigate, extend their imaginations and to use their creative skills. Children are encouraged to develop their language skills through relaxed conversation with the staff and their friends. A true partnership with parents and carers is achieved and staff ensure continuity and coherence by working with the local school; for example, children started a creative activity at school and finished it at the club.

Children develop a sense of belonging to the club and enjoy the attention of caring staff. Children are confident and secure, due to the 'key person' system that is in place. There are appropriate strategies for dealing with children's behaviour appropriately. Topics, activities and resources are used satisfactorily to promote children's awareness of the wider community and diversity. Children begin to learn to keep themselves safe appropriately as they use tools correctly, for example, using suitable knives to spread toppings on toast. They regularly practise evacuations, so know what to do in emergency situations.

Children enjoy healthy and nutritious snacks at the club and fruit is available every day. Their understanding of healthy eating is extended through regular cookery activities. Children do not always wash their hands before eating. This was raised at the previous inspection and has the potential to affect children's good health through spreading infection. The club makes regular use of the school playground and field, where children can develop their physical skills, for example, they improve their ball skills and coordination by playing games such as football. Each term there is a focus on particular physical activities such as rugby and tennis.

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?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

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

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	3
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	3

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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 report. 01/05/2012
(Suitability and Safety of premises and equipment)

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 report. 01/05/2012
(Suitability and Safety of premises and equipment)