

Time for Nursery @ Overton Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY361467
Inspection date	22 April 2008
Inspector	Margaret Baines
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Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care

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 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.

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?

Time for Nursery@ Overton Kids Club operates from the Scout Hut located in the village of Overton, near Morecambe. It serves children from the local community. Children have access to the main hall and an adjoining room used for quieter activities. Toilets and hand washing facilities are located adjacent to the main hall and there is a kitchen for preparation of snacks. Children have supervised access to an open area in front of the scout hut for physical play. The facility is registered to provide care for 26 children between the ages of four and eight years. Children with learning difficulties are welcome as are those with English as their second language. Hours of operation are from 14.30 to 17.30, Monday to Friday, during term time only. There are five members of staff who work with the children. The staff are appropriately qualified and experienced. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children access outdoor activities daily, weather permitting, which contributes to their good health. They run and play in the fresh air and practise physical skills such as football, rounders

and cricket. Children benefit enormously from the very good variety of activities planned to challenge and interest them.

Children are sufficiently protected from infection through detailed hygiene routines, which include wiping tables before snack times. Staff have a good knowledge of food hygiene practices, therefore this ensures the prevention of infection. Children are reminded of the importance of personal hygiene at appropriate times of the day. For example, they are reminded to wash hands following outdoor play and before snack time. Children have created hand washing posters for the toilet areas. They are protected from cross-infection as the setting has a detailed sick child policy, which is shared with both staff and parents. Children's health needs are attended to because there is always a member of staff present who holds a current first aid certificate and therefore staff are confident to deal with a first aid situation, should one occur. All required written consents are in place to ensure that children's health needs can be attended to at all times.

Children's health is fostered through the provision of a good choice of healthy snacks, for example toast and fresh fruit. Their dietary requirements are adequately catered for because staff ensure that they use information provided by parents about food intolerances and also listen to children who suggest ideas for snack time. Staff ensure that children learn about healthy foods through discussions and topics. Children enjoy regular drinks, which they can help themselves to at any time. Juice or water are served at snack time so ensuring children have their thirst quenched very well throughout the sessions.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in premises that are suitably maintained. However, at present the outdoor area contains some hazardous items. Children enjoy sufficient space and facilities both indoors and out of doors. Effective procedures are in place to protect children from harm, for example the exit is monitored and no unauthorised persons are allowed access.

Toys and equipment conform to required safety standards and are checked for their suitability. This ensures that children have a safe selection of toys to choose from. Children choose from a very good selection of toys and equipment that are age-appropriate, therefore they find them exciting and fun. For example, the younger children may enjoy the small world toys, the small kitchen and the dressing up props, whilst the older children may choose a computer game, outdoor play or simply sit and chat.

Children are learning about personal safety, such as the danger of talking to strangers and road safety, because staff talk to them about safety procedures. They are encouraged to be aware of the children in their group and of others around them.

The protection of the children is maintained through staff's knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedure, although the policy does not at present reflect the current guidance. The staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and how to safeguard the child in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy an excellent range of toys and equipment, which contributes to the happy, exciting time they spend in the setting. They have very good opportunities to be involved in creative activities, play a variety of sports, run in the open air, and enjoy a game of football, rounders or cricket. They also enjoy games indoors when weather prevents the outdoor play. The well thought out selection of resources enables children to make choices. Children spoken to are very content with the activities planned and the toys available for their enjoyment, because they help staff to collate ideas for activities. Children make free choices and can develop in their play as staff promote children's independence most effectively.

Areas are well defined and the children choose where they would like to play. For example, they may sit in the quiet area, play out of doors, choose a board game, play an imaginative game in the home corner, enjoy a construction challenge or simply sit and chat, enjoying each other's company.

Children are most valued and are listened to by the staff who spend much time chatting with them. Children consequently are confident to make their needs known. For example, children suggest ideas for additional resources, games and future themes. Staff engage in conversation with the children freely and interact with them on their level, which promotes the children's self esteem in a most effective manner.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are actively encouraged to make choices about the toys and games they wish to play with. Their experience of the wider world is promoted very well, through planned activities, for example they enjoy making crafts for Chinese New Year, they celebrate Christian festivals and they explore foods from around the world. Consequently, children develop a most positive attitude to race, culture and disability. Respecting each child's individuality is fundamental to the setting's ethos.

Children are very well behaved. They know what is expected of them through close relationships fostered with the staff. Children have compiled a set of rules therefore they are very aware of the boundaries. Staff are excellent role models. There is a very clear and fair policy of dealing with behaviour and bullying issues, which is shared with parents. Children know that they can discuss any concerns with staff and this helps them to feel secure in the setting. Staff get to know the children very well, for example they know the name of each child, to ensure that each child feels valued. This includes children from neighbouring schools who also attend the setting.

Staff confirmed in discussion that should children with learning difficulties attend they will be made most welcome, as inclusion is a strong feature of the setting. Activities and equipment will be adapted to ensure all children are able to participate fully.

Children benefit from continuity of care as the setting has an established staff group who know the children extremely well. Parents know that they can discuss issues at any time. The information parents receive about the setting is very detailed and is reviewed regularly, therefore parents are clear about the aims of the out of school club. Parents enjoy a verbal exchange of information at the end of each session, which ensures that they are well informed about the

events of the evening. Parents spoken to were very supportive of the service and appreciate the enjoyment that their children experience when attending.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the smooth running of the setting and the clear routines in place, which make them feel secure. The registered provider ensures that staff are appropriately vetted and qualified, therefore children's safety is further assured. Staff are encouraged to access additional training to complement their current skills through local authority training courses. Staff are aware of their role within the group and they work well together to promote the effective running of the provision.

Records are in place and detail the individual requirements of each child and relevant consents and contacts. Policies and procedures are in place to promote the safety and wellbeing of the children present in the group. The register of attendance shows clearly that the staff child ratios are being met, therefore children have their needs met appropriately.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

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 complaint 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 that children cannot access hazardous items and plants in the outdoor area
- review the child protection procedure to ensure that it reflects current guidance.

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 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk