

Cygnets Out Of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY364294
Inspection date	03 June 2008
Inspector	Gill Ogden
Setting Address	Mayflower Primary School, Station Road, Bawtry, DONCASTER, South Yorkshire, DN10 6PU
Telephone number	01302 714705
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Registered person	Cygnets Of Bawtry Limited
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Cygnets Out of School Club opened in 2007 under this registration, however it originally opened in 2005. It is privately owned and operates from a classroom in Mayflower Primary School, Bawtry near Doncaster. The club provides complementary provision to the owner's day nursery in the town. It is open each weekday from 07.45 to 09.00 and 15.30 to 17.45 for children who attend the school only. During school holidays it is open from 08.30 to 17.30 and is available to the wider community.

The club is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children at any one time. Most staff who work in the club hold a relevant early years qualification and also work in the day nursery. One staff member is currently undertaking qualification training in playwork.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a satisfactorily healthy environment. Clear policies are in place regarding hygiene routines, such as hand washing and preparation of food. Children know that they must

ensure their hands are clean before they eat and if they have not been doing messy play then they use gel to wash their hands. They go to the toilet independently and know that they should wash their hands carefully afterwards. Parents are informed that children cannot attend if they are ill. All this contributes to minimising opportunities for cross-infection.

Children get enough fresh air and exercise. They enjoy outdoor play in the school playground when the weather is good and the younger ones have a short walk to and from their classrooms in the fresh air each day. There are some floor cushions for children to rest on if they wish.

Children enjoy a filling breakfast and tea at the club. They have toast and cereal with milk, fruit juice or water for breakfast. Children have the opportunity for a sociable tea-time because the table is set attractively and they have their tea in small groups. A fairly substantial meal, such as beans on toast or ham and tomato pasta with a dessert, such as fruit cocktail is freshly prepared for the children. If children are not so hungry or parents do not want them to have a meal then fresh fruit is always available for them as well as a drink.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in safe and secure premises. The outer door has a coded entry system and staff and children can see who is coming through the large windows in the classroom or parents knock for attention. The room is suitable for the care of children but there is not yet a clearly defined area for children to rest and relax comfortably. Regular risk assessments are carried out and staff are vigilant in reminding children about safe behaviour. For example, they prompt them to 'sit on all four legs of the chair' when they start to rock back. Children also take part in fire drills so they learn how to evacuate the premises quickly and safely but these are not always done regularly enough and minimal information is recorded which is not fully useful in helping to improve practice. The youngest children are escorted safely by staff from the lower school building. There is a good range of play resources which interest the children and are suitable for them. Resources are kept in good condition.

All staff understand their child protection responsibilities and efforts are made to ensure they all go on regular training. Parents are made aware of the club's responsibilities regarding child protection as a result of the policy and procedures being on display for them to read.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and confident in the club. They have warm relationships with the staff and arrive in the group engrossed in conversations with them that they started as they walked across the playground. They know the routines of the group and sit quietly for the register to be checked even though they are keen to get on and play. Children choose their own activities and know where resources, such as Lego are stored if they have not been set out already. They interact well with each other and play co-operatively in pairs and small groups. All the children are fully engrossed in their play throughout the session. Staff support their play sensitively, following the children's lead. Some children show interest in and are knowledgeable about specific areas, such as the natural world and staff happily learn from them and ensure they are able to follow their interest. For example, they discuss posters on the walls and share experiences with them.

The range of resources enables children to enjoy a wide range of activities that meet their leisure needs. For example, children enjoy pretend play, board games, art and craft activities, reading, drawing and singing.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are met appropriately. For example, a child who is attending for the first time is helped to understand the routines and as a result is fully involved with staff and other children by the end of the session, laughing and chatting with them. Children have a strong sense of belonging which is demonstrated through the way they move confidently around the room, select toys and activities for themselves and approach and chat to staff. They enjoy activities that reflect their own cultural backgrounds, such as making cards for Fathers Day and there are some resources that enable them to think more about the wider world.

Children behave very well as a result of being involved in creating the rules of the club. Staff are consistent in reminding children and their quiet and calm approach is very effective because it is unobtrusive to others and respectful of all.

Parents comment positively on how much their children enjoy attending the group. They display friendly relationships with the staff which has a positive impact on the children. Information is shared as children are dropped off and picked up in an effective but easy and informal way. Parents receive a basic information leaflet about the club and receive ongoing updates through the club's section in the school's newsletter.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The owner/manager is very experienced in childcare and has a solid understanding of her responsibilities regarding vigilant staff recruitment procedures. An effective induction system is in place and regular staff appraisals ensure that appropriate training is identified and taken up in order to improve children's care. The premises are organised quite well to allow children to play and move around freely. Adequate staff ratios are maintained at all times.

All the necessary records are in place and maintained satisfactorily. Policies and procedures are written in a user-friendly way. Overall, the provision meets the needs of children who attend

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 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 satisfactory. 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):

- include more detail in fire drill record
- create a more clearly identified area for children to rest and relax comfortably.

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