

Lyndhurst After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY259040
Inspection date	10 March 2008
Inspector	Mauvene Burke
Setting Address	Lyndhurst Primary School, Grove Lane, London, Camberwell, SE5 8SN
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Registered person	London Borough of Southwark
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Lyndhurst After School Club has been registered since May 2003. The club operates from the self-contained dining room in Lyndhurst Primary School. There is an additional classroom if needed for specialist activities and the large school hall. The club is situated in the Camberwell area in the London borough of Southwark. A maximum of 30 children may attend the after school club at any one time, and a maximum of 100 children may attend the holiday play scheme at any one time. The after school club is open each week day from 15.30 to 18.00 during term time. The holiday play scheme is occasionally open during school holidays from 08.00 until 18.00. All children share access to the enclosed outdoor play area playground.

There are currently 26 children aged from four to under eight on roll. Children aged up to 11 years also attend. The club serves the local area and children from other local primary schools are able to attend.

There is a core team of three full time staff and three part-time staff. Of these all but one hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are independent in their personal hygiene routines and know to wash their hands before eating food and after using the bathroom or playing outside. For example, children coming into the session immediately form a line at the sink where they wash their hands ready for their snack and after using the toilet without any prompting from adults. Nonetheless, some of the older children tend to dry their hands on the kitchen tea-towel rather than using the paper towels that are readily available. This increases the risk of cross-contamination. Most staff follow good procedures when handling and preparing snacks such as wearing plastic gloves and most have a certificate in basic food hygiene.

Children's medical needs are well met. For example, appropriate documentation is used effectively to support the administration of medications and the recording of all accidents. More than half the staff hold a valid first aid certificate and the first aid boxes are appropriately stocked, which ensures that children receive appropriate care in the event of an accident. Good procedures are in place and appropriately followed when children become ill whilst at the setting.

Children have some good opportunities to develop their understanding of health issues. They have access to health information and opportunities for discussion. For example, children have recently completed a project on the benefits of healthy eating. Children have individual books which they use to record their favourite meals and recipes. Arrangements for snacks encourage children to think about and choose healthy options. A range and balance of foods are hygienically prepared using fresh ingredients, so that children are well nourished.

Children benefit from regular opportunities to experience physical activities. The club is set within the school and makes good use of their outdoor facilities to provide children with opportunities for ball games, such as football, cricket and netball. Children participate in keep fit exercise classes which helps to increase their awareness and promotes the benefits of being physically fit.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their play in a safe and secure school environment. They have use of the dining room, the main hall, a classroom and the outdoor play space. Children's work is attractively displayed giving children a sense of belonging. Children have adequate space to play and move around safely, freely and independently. However, there is no designated area for children who wish to relax or play quietly without any disturbance. Children have available to them a satisfactory range of resources consisting mainly of board games and art and crafts material, these are stored appropriately in a walk in cupboard.

Children are mostly kept safe because staff have generally identified potential risks and taken action to reduce these. For example, written risk assessments identify different areas and equipment within the club, the potential hazards and the action taken to minimise these, with timescales. However, this system does not include all hazards, such as the accessible sockets in the dining room and the radiators which are extremely hot to touch. This compromises children's safety. In addition, to this the setting does not currently have a written procedure

to be followed in the event of a child being lost, nonetheless, staff demonstrate a satisfactory understanding of what they would do in this instant.

Staff demonstrate a good understanding of child protection issues and are clear about appropriate procedures to follow if they have concerns regarding a child's welfare, which helps them protect children from harm and neglect. However, the child protection statement is currently not in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the after school club. The atmosphere is lively throughout the session. Children have opportunities to participate in a range of fun activities such as football, cricket, constructing, drama and arts and crafts which helps promote their development in all areas. The ethos of the setting is to create an environment which is fun, stimulating and safe.

Children enjoy working in small groups, for example, as they construct using small Lego bricks and are proud of the "people" and the "space station" that they make from the bricks. The children say the thing they most enjoy at the club is using the Lego and creating new things. Children support each other effectively, for example, by encouraging each other to build better "hair styles" for their "people".

Staff plan a good range of activities for the children and these are flexible to accommodate children's individual interests. Most staff spend much of their time with the children, joining in their games and supporting their ideas. Children benefit from many opportunities to develop and enhance their creative skills. For example they take part in making Easter eggs which staff display on the wall and as parents arrive children proudly show off their handy work.

Toys and equipment give children some choice and variety, but the manager is aware that this is an area for improvement as currently, toys and equipment are not freely accessible. This is because of the way equipment is stored. Children can make choices about their activities, but have to ask the staff to obtain them for them from the walk in cupboard.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are given responsibilities at the setting. They take it in turn to 'run' the tuck shop and take turns to wash and dry up the utensils used. They are encouraged to respect their environment by keeping it clean, therefore children will as need be sweep up after snack time and again after arts and crafts. Children are making positive contributions.

Children behave well and this results in a relaxed and calm atmosphere. Instances of inappropriate behaviour are mostly dealt with in an appropriate way. However, methods used are not always consistent amongst the staff team as staff will use methods they think are appropriate as opposed to what the setting's policy statement says. Children are encouraged to be good by the use of a star chart at which at the end of a term, the child/children with the most stars are rewarded.

Festivals, such as, Diwali, black history and the Chinese New Year are celebrated to increase children's knowledge and awareness of different cultures. Children use an appropriate range of resources reflecting diversity, which ensures that they develop a positive attitude towards

similarities and differences. There are currently no children attending with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, however, there is in place an Inclusion Policy which staff say would be implemented as required.

Most of the setting's policies and procedures are readily available to parents. In addition to this, there is a notice board where general information and items of interest are displayed. An appropriate complaints procedure is in place to make sure that parents know what to do if they have a concern. However, a system to share complaints with parents has not yet been developed as the manager has not yet developed systems in line with the new regulations. Parents are happy with what the setting offers, and are confident to speak with staff about any aspect of their child's welfare. Daily feedback about their child's day keeps parents well informed and helps to provide children with continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Robust recruitment procedures ensure that all staff working with children are suitable to do so. The setting has a system in place for staff induction and appraisals to ensure that their continued suitability is formally monitored and their training needs are identified.

Children enjoy coming to the setting, they enjoy the activities that are on offer and are given an opportunity to say what they would like to do in terms of activities available. The premises are cheerful and welcoming but some hazards have gone unchecked. Parents and children are greeted warmly by name and information is shared between staff and carers. Children have sufficient space to move around but they do not, however, have a designated space where they are able to relax or be quiet if they decide they do not wish to participate in any of the activities available.

Most of the required documentation is up-to-date and available for inspection. The register is completed as the children and the staff arrive and depart. Children and staff information is kept up to date and stored appropriately. A complaints log, which is required to be shared with parents, is not yet in place, neither are other relevant policies such as the procedures to follow in the event of a child being lost child or an outings policy.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to make the following improvements. They were asked to ensure that Ofsted is notified of any changes in any adults working on the premises and changes affecting their registration. They were asked to ensure that at least half the staff working with children were qualified to do so and that they obtained consent from parents before administering medication to children.

The provider has recently informed Ofsted of changes to the registration relating to the registered person and more than half the staff working with the children now hold an appropriate qualification. Systems are now in place for the safe administration of medicine to children

although the likely hood of medication being administered to children is very unlikely at this setting. As a result, children's welfare and safety is being suitably promoted.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, 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):

- ensure that all children follow good hand drying procedures in order to reduce the risk of cross-infection
- provide a designated area for children who wish to relax or play quietly without disturbance and ensure it is equipped with appropriate furniture
- assess the risk to children in relation to the exposed sockets and the radiator in the dining hall and take action to minimise these
- provide a clearly defined procedure to be followed in the event of a child being lost and ensure that there are operational procedures for the safe conduct of any outings provided
- ensure that the child protection procedures are in line with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- ensure that all staff working with children adhere to the setting's behaviour policy in order to make sure there is consistency
- ensure that the complaints procedure is in line with the new regulations relating to the handling of complaints
- ensure that all records relating to the club are readily accessible and available at all times.

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