

Creations After School Club Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector Audrey Opal Ufot

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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?

Creations After School Club opened in 2005. It operates as a sole trader and runs independently with the help of a grant from the London Borough of Brent. It operates an after school provision during term times and a holiday play scheme. The after school club serves the diverse community of the Willesden area in the London Borough of Brent. The club provides activities in a community hall, comprising 3 outdoor areas, a large hall, a medium television room, two toilets and two additional toilets for children, two wash basins, an office and a kitchen.

The after school club is registered to provide care for 25 children under eight years. There are currently 25 children from four to eight years on roll; of these, not more than five may be under five years at any one time. The club opens on five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 15:15, when children are transported to the premises. The sessions end at 18:00 and children are transported to a parents pick-up point at Willesden Library for 18:15. The holiday play scheme operates from 08:30 to 18:00.

The Creations After School Club supports children with special needs and children whose first language is not English. The club employs six staff who work part-time. The manager holds a NVQ Level 3 qualification in play work and has working experience in various out of school provisions.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good. Children develop a positive awareness of health and hygiene through routines such as washing their hands regularly before and after snack times. The premises used by the club are clean and staff have well-established practices to ensure good hygiene, such as wiping both the kitchen surfaces and tables with anti-bacterial spray. Children benefit from a choice of healthy snacks at tea time which are provided by staff. They have their snacks sitting together, which provides a good opportunity for them to socialise with each other and the staff. For example, they chat about the eventful day they had at school. They have access to drinking water whenever they wish, so that they do not become dehydrated, particularly after physical play. However, there are few opportunities for children to explore their independence, such as helping to prepare snack at tea time.

Children's health is well protected as staff obtain information about any allergies they may have and they ask parents to give permission for medical help in an emergency. There are

appropriate arrangements in place to administer medication when requested by parents, and to obtain consent and ensure written records are kept.

Children are escorted to and from three schools by mini bus and occasionally two private cars are used. They have good opportunities to take part in physical activities, which contribute to their being healthy. Children use the outdoor area to enjoy physical exercise. They have the use of a large hall where they play jump skipping and hoop games, a grass area for running around, a community fenced basket ball pitch and nearby open field to play football and throwing and catching games.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good. Children are happy in the club as they enter with great confidence and make themselves at home in the welcoming, safe and secure environment. They show a strong sense of belonging as they greet each other and the staff. The hall is well-organised to allow children to pursue their interests in which they feel safe and at ease. For example, several tables are laid out with puzzles, games and a painting set, and there are large floor games such as 'connect four' and skipping ropes for 'jump skipping'. Children's individual needs are met effectively because there is a good range of quality toys and equipment which are appropriate for their age and development. They know to ask for additional toys from the store room when they choose to change their activity.

Children are kept safe because staff have a proactive attitude to risk assessment in order to minimise hazards. A well organised registration and signing in and out system ensures children are safely accounted for. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe through practising regular emergency evacuations, which are suitably recorded. Staff are deployed well when children are transported by mini bus from school to the after school club and at the end of the session children are transported to parents' pick up point. Staff's vigilant observation ensures children are collected by the authorised person. Current arrangements for recording incidents is good.

Children are very safe and secure on the premises because staff place a strong emphasis on their well-being. For example, there are thorough safety policies and procedures in place. Children are well supervised as staff are deployed effectively. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the staff continuously update their knowledge and understanding of child protection. Good policies and procedures are in place in the event of suspected abuse and an allegation against staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good. Children arrive happily to the after school club and staff greet them warmly as they enquire about their day. Children are relaxed and secure in their relationships with staff. They are having lots of fun while they explore a good range of stimulating activities that are suitable for their age and geared towards their individual interests. Staff are very good role-models and demonstrate their interaction skills as they take part in children's 'Chinese Whispers' game. This enhances children's listening and recalling skills.

Children enjoy well-balanced sessions, as staff plan in advance and allow flexibility in activities so that children can put forward their ideas, such as playing football. They are motivated and confident in the well resourced environment. The younger children enjoy the positive interaction from staff as they play 'bingo' which helps them identify number when numbers are called out. Staff are very well deployed to work directly with the children both indoors and outdoors. They are kind and caring towards the children and participate in their outdoor games such as basketball, hoops and high and low jump skipping games.

Children settle well in the club. They show enthusiasm as they play together and learn to share and take turns in activities of their choice. Children's art work is attractively displayed, which promotes their self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good. Children are sociable with each other and staff and play co-operatively together, which develops their social skills. Staff are calm and friendly and have developed good relationships with the children. Children are learning about the world they live in and the beliefs of other people, as they enjoy taking part in various cultural festivals such as Black History month, Chinese New Year, Eid and Christmas. Children have access to a good range of resources about the wider world, such as cultural books, musical instruments and watching educational videos, which helps them to learn positively about different cultures. Staff encourage full access to all activities by both boys and girls, so that no-one is excluded because of their gender. There are children with special needs currently attending the after school club, and appropriate arrangements are in place to fully include them in the activities.

Staff provide good quality information about the after school club for parents through a parents' hand book, letters informing about outings and notice board announcements. Children contribute to devising behaviour ground rules for the after school club, which help them develop a sense of responsibility, involvement and how to manage their own behaviour. Parents are made welcome when they collect their children. They have good, daily opportunities to discuss their children's achievements. Staff work in partnership with parents in relation to managing aspects of their children's behaviour. This helps staff to establish an effective partnership with parents so that children benefit from shared information.

Organisation

The organisation is good. Children feel at ease in a well-organised environment. The space is organised to ensure the resources are easily accessible to the children. This means the children confidently initiate their own play both indoors and outdoors. Planning contributes to the organisation and supports children's development. The required records, including register and records of children's information are well-maintained and they are kept securely in a locked cabinet. All of the policies and procedures are comprehensive. There is an effective process in place to ensure staff are familiar with the procedures through their induction and at team meetings.

Recruitment procedures are thorough and good arrangements are in place for vetting of new staff. The manager and staff carry out a range of planning and administrative tasks, and all staff participate in activities with the children. Some staff have attended training, such as Behaviour Management, Child Protection, Health and Safety, NVQ level 2 & 3, City and Guilds in Childcare. Ongoing individual training is in process for staff to obtain qualifications in NVQ level 2 & 3. The children benefit from the club maintaining a suitable child to adult ratio. The club meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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 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):

- provide children with more opportunities to explore their independence such as helping to prepare tea at snack time.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk