

Crazy Crackers @ St Bartholemews

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY366713
Inspection date	11 August 2008
Inspector	Wendy Fitton
Setting Address	St. Bartholomews C of E Primary School, Ash Street, Great Harwood, BLACKBURN, BB6 7QA
Telephone number	07980 272109
E-mail	
Registered person	Crazy Crackers Ltd
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Crazy Crackers Limited provides full day care provision for a maximum of 48 children aged from three years up to eight years. The group is registered under a limited company and two directors are the registered providers. The group operates from within St Bartholomews Primary School on Ash Street in Great Harwood, Lancashire. Care is provided before school from 07.30 to 09.15 and after school from 15.00 to 18.00; term-time only, Monday to Friday. There is a holiday club during the school holidays providing care from 07.30 to 18.00. Children have access to school classrooms, the two school halls, the outdoor grounds and suitable bathroom facilities. There are seven staff employed who have suitable qualifications in early years, and a manager and a deputy are employed.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted as staff take positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and follow appropriate measures when children are unwell. Children know and understand the importance of good hygiene as they talk about hand washing before and after food and after

using the toilet. Toilet areas are very clean and staff are responsible for cleaning and sweeping the areas that they use. Children's medical needs are noted and all medication records are signed by parents. There are clear policies and procedures in place for sickness, accidents and emergencies.

Children are provided with regular snacks and food in adequate quantities. Food is properly stored and any religious, cultural or special dietary needs are noted. Staff are fully aware of all needs. Children really enjoy their toast, fruit and vegetable sticks for their snacks. Drinks are available throughout the sessions and children access them freely. Children enjoy the positive social occasion when they all sit together for their packed lunches to chat and spend time with their friends and staff in a relaxed, warm and welcoming environment.

Children's physical health and well-being are positively promoted through daily exercise and fresh air. They go out into the community to the local park, go on trips to local places of interest and go to the bowling alley and the cinema. Children exercise their bodies as they use the outdoor play grounds, playing basketball, football, climbing and balancing. They develop their hand-eye coordination as they participate in activities of painting, cutting with scissors, construction toys and jigsaws.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children access a very warm, welcoming and child centred environment. There is access to space and necessary facilities for a range of activities to promote children's development. The building is a primary school and there is access to various classrooms, halls, toilet facilities and outdoor grounds. The premises are clean and well maintained and all maintenance and cleaning responsibilities lie with the school and the local council. Space and resources are organised creatively and effectively and allow the children to play, relax and eat in comfort and safety.

Children's development is promoted as they use appropriate resources and everyday routine furniture during the sessions. The equipment and toys create an accessible, stimulating environment and they conform to safety standards. For example, there are tables and chairs in each area for games and arts and crafts, and some bean bags, rugs and cushions for relaxation in the quiet area. Toys and resources include construction toys, computer games, drawing and painting materials, dressing up clothes, table football, jigsaws and board games. All toys are stored safely and the children are able to choose from the stock cupboard.

Children's safety is paramount because staff take positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings, and follow appropriate measures to prevent any accidents. Children talk about the fire evacuation procedures and know where to line up and the exit to be used. Children are secure as there are effective systems for their arrival and collection, and records of visitors. The front door is locked throughout the sessions. There are detailed procedures for any outings and the children go out to the local areas and to places of interest. All consents are in place from parents and children are fully aware of the safety rules. Risk assessments are carried out prior to any trips taking place and children are involved in the premises and equipment risk assessments to give them some responsibility for their own safety.

Children are protected and safeguarded because staff know their responsibilities and the procedures to follow in the event of a child protection concern. Staff know to record and document any observations or conversations and to inform their manager. The manager then reports any concerns to the designated person and a referral is made to the Local Safeguarding

Children Board. There is a child protection policy in place and this highlights the relevant agency contact details and includes procedures to follow in the event of an allegation against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's care learning and play are well supported as staff are clear about the main purpose of the provision. Children's physical, social, emotional and intellectual development is promoted as they take part in a wide range of activities and experiences. Children are very confident and secure and there are positive relationships evident between staff and children. Staff support the children during their play, chat to them about what they are doing and make a relaxed, child-led environment where children have fun and enjoy themselves.

Children think and plan for themselves and promote their own independence as they have a drink when they need to, and take responsibility for their own packed lunchboxes and toileting needs. Children are welcomed to the group and are encouraged to support each other and help to settle new children. Children are interested and motivated about the activities and talk about the themes they work to when they bake, have a beach party, a take away meal and a teddy bear picnic. They enjoy the visits to the cinema, the park and the bowling alley.

Children respond to the routines and rhythms of the day and are busy and well occupied, play harmoniously with their friends and respond to staff input. Children state that they enjoy all the activities that are provided and these include arts and crafts, dressing up, board games, dressing dolls and hairdressing, film shows, table football and small world activities. Children are grouped together and each child's needs and interests are met. Children are sensitive and well mannered and are aware of children who may need extra support; they ensure that they all play together and include everyone.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel valued and welcomed as staff promote equality of opportunity and recognise individual needs. Information is gathered from parents and recorded on the enrolment form and an induction is planned in order to ensure staff get to know the children and therefore provide suitable care. There is an equal opportunities policy in place and this aims to value differences and diversity, ensuring children have full access to all facilities and activities. Children work and play harmoniously together and older children show genuine care and give support to younger children.

Children are fully included and their needs are met as staff are proactive in ensuring appropriate action and positive steps are taken to support children who may have learning difficulties or any disabilities. The physical environment is accessible and there is lots of space for children to move freely without any obstructions. Staff work together with parents according to what the children may need and all children play together in a large group and are fully included in all aspects of the setting.

Children benefit most when adults adopt a consistent and positive approach to managing behaviour. Children talk about the rules and boundaries and staff talk to them and explain the consequences of difficult or challenging behaviour. Children state that everyone gets along

with each other and that bullying or any unkindness is not allowed. Staff present as good role models and show care and kindness towards the children.

Children benefit and feel secure when there are trusting and mutually supportive partnerships with parents. Staff talk to parents on a daily basis and discuss the routines and activities. At induction parents are given detailed organisational information about the group and their policies and procedures. Staff talk positively about the effective communication systems with parents and are glad that parents are involved and interested in what is planned and the daily routines. Parents state that the group is an excellent facility and without the support and flexibility of the sessions they would not be able to work without anxieties. There is a parents' noticeboard that displays all certificates, staffing details, play activities and the complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are extremely safe and well protected as all adults are suitably vetted, experienced and qualified to provide care. There are robust recruitment and selection procedures in line with the organisation's policies and procedures. Staff participate in a formal interview, health checks are carried out and induction programmes are followed. Staff are monitored regularly through appraisal and staff and team meetings. All staff have access to required training and continue to update their qualifications and practice. The manager identified a gap in training for new frameworks and wishes to ensure that all staff are fully trained for the implementation of the new early years programme.

Children's needs are very well met through excellent organisation of space, resources and staff deployment. Children can play, relax and eat in comfort and safety to promote their development. Staff ratios are well maintained and three core staff work directly with children throughout the day. There is creative use of space, and rooms are suited to the types of activities offered. There are various classrooms with a range of furniture and equipment, and the school halls are accessible for large physical play equipment and physical activities, as well as the school playgrounds.

Children's welfare, care and learning are excellent because all records, policies and procedures which are required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available for inspection, up-to-date and well documented. The documentation is stored in locked file boxes for the duration of the scheme and the directors ensure that confidential organisational information is stored at the main office. Regulatory records include accident records, medication records, staff and children's details and attendance records. Organisational policies and procedures are available to parents, and parents give consent for all types of activities carried out during the day. Policies and procedures work in practice and meet with the requirements of the National Standards.

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 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):

- continue to update staff's knowledge and understanding of the new frameworks for children's welfare and learning.

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