

The What Cabin

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY289988
Inspection date	04 December 2007
Inspector	Lynn Dent
Setting Address	Willow Street, St Matthews Estate, Leicester, LE1 2HP
Telephone number	0116 2626551
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Registered person	St Matthews Children's Action Group
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care, Crèche

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?

The What Cabin is a registered charity run by St Matthew's Children's Action Group and has been under the current ownership since 2004. It operates from one room in a single-storey building. It is situated on a public park in the St Matthew's area on the outskirts of Leicester. A maximum of 24 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The out of school club is open each weekday from 15.15 to 18.00 during term time and from 08.00 to 18.00 during the summer and Easter school holidays. A maximum of 16 children may attend the crèche. The Crèche is open from 09:00 to 12:00 term time to meet the needs of parents on the St Matthew's estate. However, at present the crèche is not running. The setting does not have a secure sole-use outdoor play area, but children make supervised use of the public park with written parental consent. Children aged under eight years may not attend on an open access basis, this means that they are not permitted to arrive or leave unless accompanied by an agreed adult.

There are currently 38 children from five to under eight years on roll, although the club provides care for children over eight years. The setting primarily cares for families in the immediate neighbourhood. The setting currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language. The club employs six staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's snacks are varied and include fresh fruit. Therefore, their diet is generally healthy. The menu is changed frequently and displayed so children know what is available each day. Children's independence is promoted as they help themselves and choose when to eat their snack. The setting provides a water dispenser and children are observed to access this at will. Children know which foods are good for them because the staff have worked with them to help them understand this, and displays by the children remind them that fruit, vegetables and other foods are healthy. Information about children's individual dietary needs is readily accessible as this is detailed in their records and a list is available in the kitchen at all times. Children are encouraged to wash their hands when they arrive at the setting and after using the toilet. However, on the day of inspection children were not observed to wash their hands on arrival, and played or participated in activities before snack time. The children did not wash their hands before eating their snack. Consequently, their good hygiene and health were not fully protected.

The setting does not normally administer medication due to the short period of time that they attend. However, some staff are trained to administer an EpiPen for children with severe allergies. The policy for the exclusion of children who are ill is shared with parents. This means parents know what action to take when their children are ill. As a result all children are protected from infections. Children receive good care following accidents as staff are trained in first aid. Clear systems are in place and implemented well to ensure that parents are kept informed of accidents and any first aid given. Children have regular opportunities to play outside and use playground equipment to promote their physical development. Indoors children play a range of games and participate in activities that promote their hand-eye coordination. For example, they play pool, use a Play Station, scissors and craft materials and build with construction toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff have completed training in child protection and understand the internal procedures for recording and reporting concerns to the person in charge. However, some staff are not confident to report potential child protection issues in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board in the absence of the person in charge. Consequently, children's welfare is not sufficiently protected. Children can explain why action is taken and rules are in force to help keep them safe. For example, they know that they must not fight so they do not hurt others and not go through the gate in the outdoor play area.

Staff are vigilant when collecting children from school. They ensure the register is completed showing the times that the children arrive and leave. Entry to the setting is not secure, although the handle on the door is high children can potentially reach this to open the door. Consequently, they are able to leave the premises unsupervised and anyone may enter. Therefore, children's safety is not fully protected. Regular risk assessments of the premises, resources and toys means that any dangers are identified and resolved. Staff check the premises and the outdoor play area daily to ensure they are safe for children to use. Toys and equipment are in good condition and most are stored at the children's height. Therefore, they can safely access these to support their play.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Staff provide good care, learning and play for the children because they plan a range of developmentally appropriate activities. Children enjoy these because staff consult them about what they would like to do. Consequently, children are settled and participate for sustained periods of time in the activities provided. Children are confident to extend the activities provided and to initiate their own play. For example, they make Christmas cards, play pool and ask for a specific game to play. Staff effectively interact with the children during play and encourage them to tackle simple problems. This is shown as the children try to make pop up cards. The staff offer guidance and advice while allowing the children to develop this skill independently. This shows that children are confident to approach the adults.

Children know the routines and can explain these. They explain they enjoy coming to the club because 'There is lots to do, we can chill out and can make friends'. Children explain which games and activities they enjoy, for example, the Play Station, painting, sewing, designing and making things, such as, cards, decorations and presents for the tree. Children share resources and take turns when playing games. For example they take turns when playing a game of 'Connect Four'. This shows that they play harmoniously together. Children play at different levels on the Play Station. As a result they develop new and different skills. Children happily draw pictures with chalk for a Christmas display because the staff involve them in this and accept what the children have done. For example, when drawing houses, a child draws a block of flats which are part of the local community. These are readily accepted and added to the display. As a result children feel a sense of achievement.

The setting provides a play scheme during the school holidays. Discussions with children, and photographs, show that a good range of developmentally appropriate activities are provided and children enjoy themselves. Information about the children is detailed in their records. As a result their care needs are effectively met.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The setting cares for children from a diverse range of backgrounds. The staff treat all children with respect and involve them in all activities. Children who speak English as a second language receive support from staff to help them communicate. Staff engage children in discussions about their life away from the club. This is shown as a child explains to staff that he has a part in the school Christmas play. The staff help him to read his words and encourage him to learn them. Consequently, all children feel valued and develop a sense of belonging. Children develop an understanding of the differences in the society in which they live because they celebrate a range of festivals and events and learn about others throughout the year. For example, they celebrate Diwali, Christmas and Bonfire Night, and learn about black history. A range of books and displays support this. Consequently, children learn to respect those who may be different to themselves.

Children enjoy mutually respectful relationships with their friends and the staff. Staff are consistent in promoting positive role models for good behaviour. For example, as a group of children play pool, they discuss the rules of the game, staff help them to learn these as they direct them to the written rules which are displayed and explain these in simple terms. Children have good self-esteem because staff promote an air of individuality and explain that all children have their special skills. Children show good behaviour because they understand the rules of

the setting and happily abide by these. As a result children share toys and take turns as they play harmoniously together. Parents receive a booklet at induction containing policies, procedures and information about the club. A notice board for parents keeps them up to date with any changes and general information. Agreements with parents are in place and ensure that all parties understand the service provided. Ongoing daily discussions between staff and parents ensure all parties are kept well informed of their child's care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Appropriate organisation of the environment and activities means children have time and space to play and complete activities. They can play alone or with their friends and are encouraged to make choices about what they do. Staff work well together and are deployed to work directly with the children. Consequently, effective interaction supports the children's development. Planning is adapted to meet the interests of the children currently attending. Therefore, they enjoy the experiences provided and are engaged in developmentally appropriate activities. The setting is registered to run a crèche. However, this is not currently running.

The operational plan works well in practice because policies and procedures are implemented and support the work of the setting. As a result the outcomes for children are promoted. Clear procedures for the recruitment and checking of new staff ensures children are cared for by suitable, qualified and experienced adults. Children's welfare is maintained because there is always a minimum of two adults caring for them and they are never left unsupervised. Documentation is organised well and is easily accessible. As a result information is readily available to support the care of the children. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the registered person agreed: to improve the child protection procedure; devise a written procedure in the event of a child being lost; identify a named deputy person in charge, and ensure the minimum toilet facilities and space are available. The registered person has taken the appropriate actions to meet the recommendations. Policies have been implemented and improved. A named deputy is in place. Additional toilet facilities are available. Therefore, children's well-being and safety are enhanced.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that the provider or Ofsted 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 children's good health is promoted during daily routines. This is with particular regard to washing hands before eating
- ensure that the premises are secure and children are not able to leave unsupervised
- ensure that staff are able to implement the child protection procedures in the absence of the designated member of staff.

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