

North Downham Training Project Crèche & After School club

Inspection report for early years provision

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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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The North Downham Training Project is run by a voluntary funded committee to meet the needs of the local community. The project provides a range of courses, primarily aimed at those wishing to return to work. The project provides crèche facilities for students undertaking training. There is also an after school club operating at the premises.

The crèche opens between 10:00 and 12:00 and 13:00 and 15:00 on Monday to Friday, during term-time only. The crèche is registered for 12 children under five years, of whom no more than six children may be under two years at any one time. The crèche accepts children from the age of three months. Three members of staff work with the children and all have suitable childcare qualifications. The crèche has use of a dedicated crèche room which is divided into three sections, including an area for messy play and sand and water.

The after school club opens between 15:15 and 18:00 on Monday to Friday, during term-time only. It is registered for a maximum of 24 children from four years to under eight years. There are currently 19 children on roll. Children aged over the age of eight years also attend. Staff collect children from Forster and Torridon schools. There are six members of staff in total. A minimum of four members of staff are present at every session. Additional specialist staff are sometimes invited to work with the children. Four of the regular staff have recognised childcare

qualifications. The after school club uses the crèche room, plus a classroom and computer room. The club also has use of additional classrooms in the main building.

There is a fully enclosed garden area which is located outside the crèche room. The after school club also has use of an enclosed courtyard area and garden.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The premises and facilities are clean and hygienically maintained, promoting children's welfare. Adults are attentive to children's health needs, such as keeping records and being mindful of children's specific dietary requirements. Good practice guidelines are followed carefully, regarding the storage, preparation and handling of food, so that arrangements promote the good health of children. Children enjoy a good balance and variety of nutritious snacks and meals, including plenty of fresh fruit and salad vegetables, helping them to be healthy. Children have a very good understanding of foods which are good for them and those which are less beneficial, because adults talk to children about these. They actively encourage children to enjoy healthy options, such as brown bread, helping children to make healthy choices.

Children have a good understanding of how germs are spread and the importance of hand washing for being healthy. Children are using wet wipes before handling food, helping to ensure their hands are clean, but this practice is not fully supporting children, in adopting good personal hygiene habits, through proper hand washing routines. Adults are trained in first aid procedures, so they are able to respond appropriately should an accident occur. Suitable records are kept, so that adults are accountable and keep parents informed, promoting children's health and welfare. Details regarding more than one child are sometimes recorded on the same page, which means information about accidents is not always confidential.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are supported and encouraged to move around the setting safely and appropriately, helping to keep them safe. Children understand they must walk calmly and tell an adult if they are leaving one of the rooms and going to another, helping them to develop a sense of responsibility for themselves, while also staying safe. Children are able to take part in a good range of activities, set out across several rooms, because adults are well deployed to these areas, supervising children closely, helping them to stay safe. Children generally use play materials and equipment safely, because adults talk to children and discuss the rules and boundaries for safe play. However, adults are not always demonstrating to children, safe use of equipment and tools, such as handling of the snooker cues, to develop children's spatial awareness and to reinforce safety messages.

Risk assessment is generally good and measures are in place to help children stay safe, such as cleaning fluids being inaccessible and notices clearly displayed, providing health and safety information. However, rooms are not always checked thoroughly, ensuring there are no hazards to children, such as from trailing leads and unprotected electric sockets. Children practise fire drills, helping them to know what to do and how to stay safe, should emergency evacuation of the premises be necessary. Good procedures are in place, including location of any necessary keys to outer gates, notices being clearly displayed and exits clearly marked. Children are kept safe

and protected should safeguarding concerns arise, because adults are thoroughly trained in child protection, follow appropriate guidelines and know how to make a referral to care services if worried.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled in the setting, because they have a very good range of activities available to them, keeping them purposefully and constructively occupied. They settle immediately to play as they arrive, because toys and play materials are attractively set out, encouraging use and small group participation. Children enjoy playing with their friends and have excellent opportunities to relax, play games and engage in activities of their own choosing. Children enjoy a broad range of artistic play experiences, encouraging creativity and providing a sense of accomplishment. They make good use of the computer suite, developing their skills with both hardware and software. Children are well supervised using ICT, so that they only access suitable sites for both learning and leisure.

Children enjoy a well balanced programme of activities, that include opportunities for fresh air and exercise. Well planned outside activities, including planting and growing things such as sunflowers, vegetables and herbs, helping children to learn about the requirements of living things, as well as experiencing a sense of achievement. Additional rooms are available for active play, such as music and dancing, so that children benefit from physical activity all year round. Children's care needs are met well, because adults are warm, caring and attentive. The schedule provides a relaxed and informal setting for snacks and meals, so that children can sit together in small groups, enjoying conversation and a sense of belonging.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a real sense of belonging, because they are welcomed and valued as individuals. Adults greet children warmly and pay them personal compliments, such as how lovely their hair is plaited, helping them to feel good about themselves. Children develop a positive identity, because they have a good range of books and resources that they can relate to. They take part in activities that celebrate diversity and activities that children themselves have shown a particular interest in. They are especially proud of their African display and talk enthusiastically about their mask making activity and the animals they drew, coloured and painted. The setting actively promotes inclusion, so that all children benefit from the resources and facilities available. Designated staff support children with learning difficulties so that they are fully integrated in the setting.

Children play well together, share and take turns, because social skills are positively reinforced and encouraged. Children are consulted and involved in agreeing rules and boundaries, helping to ensure conformity to acceptable and desirable ways of behaving. Adults work well with the children, helping them to discuss their ideas and views and to negotiate fair turns at popular activities. Parents and carers receive some good written information about the group, so that they know about the sorts of activities in which their children are taking part. They are made very welcome in the setting and have plenty of opportunities to talk to staff about their children's welfare and progress in the group. Parents and carers are very satisfied with care and leisure arrangements for their children and speak highly of staff and the services provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Adults are properly vetted ensuring they are suitable to look after children. A very good ratio of qualified staff and assistants are employed in the setting, so that children receive good levels of support and supervision. Appropriate records, including children's details and registers of attendance, together with sound policies and procedures, are helping to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting. The operational plan is comprehensive and supports strong leadership and management, effectively promoting the welfare, care and learning of all the children. Rooms, space and resources are very well organised, so that children enjoy a good range and variety of activities after school.

Arrangements also apply to the crèche facility, although there were no children attending the crèche in the afternoon, on the day of the inspection. Some adults working in the after school group also work in the crèche and the same policies and procedures are applied, supporting good care practice for the younger children. They have a suitable range of toys and play materials and an appropriate activity programme is organised for the crèche children, ensuring they develop well and make good progress. 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 agreed to devise and implement a system to record any incidents relating to behaviour and the use of physical intervention. The daily log provides relevant information and enables staff to be accountable for any incidents in the setting. The provider also agreed to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and this is included with the children's details.

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 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):

- encourage children to adopt good personal hygiene habits through hand washing routines and ensure accident details are recorded confidentially

- improve daily risk assessment, ensuring each adult checks the room they are deployed to for potential hazards, prior to use and develop children's spatial awareness and safe handling of tools and equipment, specifically snooker cues

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