

Pear Tree Holiday Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY332431
Inspection date	25 October 2006
Inspector	Margaret Baines
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Registered person	Pear Tree Voluntary Management Committee
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?

The holiday club operates in Pear Tree school during the school holidays. Children who attend this school for children with special needs attend the out of school club with children from the local community. This provides a provision for both disabled and non disabled children. The facilities available for the children include the early years classroom, the sensory room, the gym and three enclosed outdoor areas. Children also have supervised access to the swimming pool where a life guard is always in attendance. The holiday club is open for nine weeks from Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 17.30.

There are presently 18 children under eight years on roll and 30 children over eight years. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children access outdoor activities daily, weather permitting, which contributes to their good health. They enjoy activities in the fresh air. For example, the younger children love to ride on

the trikes and the older children have great fun in the adventure play area. Children benefit greatly from the very good variety of activities planned to challenge and interest them.

Children are sufficiently protected from infection through very good hygiene routines, which include wiping tables before snack times. The staff's knowledge of food hygiene practices contributes to the prevention of infection. Most members of the staff team hold a food hygiene certificate.

Children are reminded of the importance of personal hygiene at appropriate times of the day. For example, they are reminded to wash hands following outdoor play and before snack time. They are protected from cross-infection as the setting has a detailed sick child policy, which is shared with both staff and parents.

Children's health is fostered through the provision of an extensive choice of healthy snacks, for example different types of bread, fresh fruit and vegetables together with a variety of healthy dips. Their dietary requirements are adequately catered for. All children are encouraged to enjoy a healthy snack at break times. Children also enjoy making snacks with support from staff. The school adopts a healthy eating philosophy, which extends throughout the holiday club..

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in premises that are very well-maintained and provide lots of space to allow children freedom of choice and movement from one area to the other in complete safety. The use of a range of areas ensures children have both a very good choice of activities and affords them safety through risk assessments and staff's thorough attention to detail.

Children benefit from the use of a wide range of suitable facilities both indoors and out of doors. Very effective procedures are in place to protect children from harm, for example, the exit is monitored and no unauthorised persons are allowed access. The swimming pool is securely alarmed to ensure that no children may go into the area undetected. Toys and equipment conform to required safety standards and are checked for their suitability at regular intervals. This ensures that children have a safe selection of resources to choose from, which they find both great fun and challenging. For example, children enjoy the lovely art activities, the interactive white board and the home corner. Older children also enjoy an excellent range of age appropriate safe activities. For example, they love to play in the fantastic outdoor area and they delight at the very well organised and innovative craft activities. They made exciting items for the Halloween party.

Children are learning about personal safety, such as walking not running. They are encouraged to clear toys away following an activity to prevent accidents. Children are learning to show a respect for property. There are in place the required documents should an accident occur.

The protection of the children is maintained through the staff knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Staff demonstrated a good understanding of child protection issues and how to safeguard the child in this area. There is in place a child protection coordinator who is aware of her role and responsibility with regard to the protection of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy an outstanding range of toys and equipment, which contribute to the extremely happy, exciting time they spend in the holiday club. Both disabled and non disabled children enjoy their time together sharing and making new friends. They have very good opportunities to be involved in a great variety of activities, which include painting, modelling, sand and water play, outdoor play, the home corner, the interactive white board and a variety of craft activities. Older children have unlimited access to the wonderful adventure play ground with younger children enjoying the bouncy castle and the sit and ride resources. Children enjoy games indoors when weather prevents the outdoor play. The excellent selection of resources available enable children to make choices, which promotes their independence and self-esteem.

Children spoken to were very happy with the activities planned and the toys available. They showed great enthusiasm when making the spider biscuits and the spider models. Children make free choices because staff promote children's independence effectively. Staff ensure a very good range of toys and activities are available for the children to access. Staff plan a wide range of play opportunities throughout the week, based on children's ideas and suggestions.

Areas are well-defined and the children choose where they would like to play. For example, they may sit in the quiet area, play out of doors in the wonderful outdoor area, choose a board game, a construction challenge or simply sit and chat with friends. They also enjoy the role-play area where they care for the dolls, make cups of tea and dress up. All children have daily access to the indoor heated swimming pool where they adore swimming in the lovely warm water. There is an area for rest and relaxation, which is equipped with fantastic resources, therefore contributes to the significant enjoyment of those children who prefer to spend some quiet time.

Children are really valued and are listened to by the staff and they confidently make their needs known. Staff engage in conversation with the children freely and interact with them on their level, which promotes the child's self-esteem and confidence very well. Staff ensure both groups of children are actively encouraged to integrate and therefore experience inclusion in a most positive way.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Disabled and non disabled children, thoroughly enjoy their time together in this innovative setting. Children's needs are met very well because staff spend time and much effort getting to know the children and planning to ensure that everyone has a lovely time when they attend the out of school club. Staff provide a hearty welcome to the children from the community and the special school children, to ensure that harmony prevails throughout and children enjoy their time here. Children enjoy sharing activities, including those, which share the wider world in a positive manner. For example, the children had great fun learning about the Indian festival of Diwali. Both disabled and non disabled children loved making the beautiful clay lamps using clay and bright coloured paints. There are excellent examples of our wider world in the pictures and resources available to the children, which helps them to develop a very good understanding of diversity in a positive manner. Children also plan to celebrate Christian festivals, for example plans are in place for Christmas and Easter activities. The children also have very good opportunities to explore foods from around the world. Through the very well focused activities

and the support and enthusiasm given by staff, children develop a good understanding about diversity in a positive way.

Respecting each child's individuality is fundamental to the setting's ethos. The setting is innovative in the way both disabled and non disabled children enjoy their time together in this special school, which is very much part of the local community. Although places for disabled children are limited there are very good opportunities for each child to enjoy the fun and excitement during the school holiday period.

Children are well behaved. They know what is expected of them through close relationships fostered with the staff. Staff are very good role models. There is a clear and fair policy of dealing with behaviour and bullying issues; this helps to promote children's self esteem. Children know that they can discuss any concerns with staff and this helps them to feel secure. For example, if a child has not had a turn with a game they inform the staff who encourage negotiation. Staff know children's names and take the time to get to know them individually to ensure that each child feels valued. Children from the community who attend the club are welcomed and introduced to other children and soon make friends. Such practice ensures children settle well and develop friendships.

Children benefit from continuity of care as the setting has an established staff group who know the children extremely well. Parents know that they can talk to staff at any time and discuss issues in relation to their child's well-being. The information parents receive about the setting is excellent. It is clear and informative, ensuring parents are very well informed about the setting. There is always a verbal exchange of information at the end of each session. Parents value the service and appreciate the enjoyment that their children experience when attending.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the well planned and extremely innovative organisation of the out of school club. There are very clear routines in place, which help the children feel secure. The manager ensures effective team work is in place and that staff are appropriately vetted and qualified. The induction procedure ensures that staff are clear about their roles. Training is a positive aspect of the setting with training planned in lifting and handling techniques for non-school staff, to compliment their existing child care experience. Staff are aware of their role within the group. They work well together to promote the effective running of the provision.

Records are in place and detail the individual requirements of each child and relevant consents and contacts. Policies and procedures are in place to promote the safety and wellbeing of the children present in the group. Activity plans are available following staff meetings to ensure that the wide range of well planned activities continue to excite and challenge the children.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration in May 2006, 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 complaint 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 develop training for all staff, in particular those staff who have limited experience working in an environment for children with special needs, to further enhance the strong training programme in place in this setting.

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