



## Moorhens

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 229113  
**Inspection date** 23 May 2006  
**Inspector** Janet Ashcroft

**Setting Address** Moor Hall Primary School, Rowallan Road, Sutton Coldfield,  
West Midlands, B75 6RE

**Telephone number** 0121 308 3966  
**E-mail** enquiry@moorhall.bham.sch.uk  
**Registered person** Einir Baxter  
**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](http://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?

Moorhens was registered in 1995. It operates from the Moorhens room and the library within Moor Hall Primary School, Sutton Coldfield. The children share access to a secure outdoor play area. The setting serves only those children who attend the school and opens term time only, from 08:00 until 08:50 and from 15:30 until 17:30.

The setting is registered to care for 40 children at any one time. There are currently 75 children on roll, who attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs.

There are four staff who work with the children; all have relevant qualifications to Level 3.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are actively learning about good hygiene and the staff encourage and support the children's understanding through discussion and their own good practice. As a result, the children are able to confidently explain the importance of effective personal hygiene routines. Children's health is safeguarded through the setting's policies and records, which are very well-maintained, reviewed regularly and meet all requirements. However, the procedure for checking the contents of the first aid box does not have regard to expiry dates, which potentially compromises the children's well-being.

Children are given frequent opportunities to exercise outdoors and have access to a good range of outdoor toys and equipment, which enables them to develop and practise a wide range of physical skills.

Children's nutritional needs are appropriately accommodated, although the actual range of food offered is limited. However, children are learning about healthy eating through resources and activities. For example, the staff provide leaflets about food and nutrition for children and parents. They also provide opportunities for the children to discuss healthy food options as they participate in creative activities based on diet and good health.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are able to move independently around the setting, which is very clean and well maintained. They are warmly welcomed into the setting by the staff and by the décor, which is child-friendly and includes their own notice boards and attractive displays of their creative work.

Children benefit from the use of a good range of toys, equipment and furniture, which is kept in an extremely clean and safe condition and which promotes all areas of their development. The children design and make labels for the equipment boxes, which fosters their sense of ownership and belonging.

The staff are very aware of possible risks to children's safety and have taken steps to remove hazards. Risk assessments are thorough, however, the children are not fully protected as the locks on the toilet doors pose a potential hazard to their safety. The children are learning how to keep themselves safe, for example, they regularly participate in fire evacuation drills. Frequent discussion and posters are used effectively by staff to remind the children of risks and consequences.

Children's protection from abuse and neglect is promoted through the staff's extensive knowledge of signs and symptoms and of reporting procedures.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are able to engage in a stimulating and well-balanced range of activities and experiences. These are generally well-organised and help the children make progress in all areas of development. The staff regularly rotate the available equipment and provide daily art and craft activities, which stimulate and engross the children.

The staff make full use of the 'secret garden' area of the playground to provide the children with frequent opportunities to explore and investigate. The children are learning about the natural world as they participate in ladybird and beetle hunts and make daisy chains.

Children's language and social skills are extensively promoted through the frequent questions asked of them by the staff, for example, about their day in school, their plans for the evening and their choice of activities. The questions often challenge the children and make them think. The children's self-confidence is enhanced as the staff listen carefully to their responses.

The children are encouraged to contribute to the running of the provision. Regular questionnaires provide them with opportunities to make suggestions for future activities and events, fostering their sense of belonging and self-esteem.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children benefit tremendously from being cared for as individuals with their unique needs and interests acknowledged and accommodated. They are able to access a good range of resources and experiences to develop their knowledge of the wider world and to promote their understanding of others.

Children thrive through the consistency of care which the first-class partnership with parents promotes. Parents are very positive about the setting and are regularly invited to comment on the existing provision; their suggestions for possible future improvements are considered and implemented where possible. All parents are warmly welcomed into the setting and are encouraged to feel involved through a variety of strategies, including regular verbal feedback on their children's progress and activities.

The children behave well. They are aware of the goals and boundaries in the setting through frequent, positive reminders and the staff's behaviour management techniques are generally good. The children participate in devising the rules for the setting and older children support their younger friends in remembering routines and procedures. The staff have high expectations of behaviour and encourage the

children to work together. For example, a large group of children demonstrated skills of compromise and cooperation as they initiated and implemented a restaurant role play activity, where they devised menus, negotiated roles and organised table settings.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The children are able to explore and investigate as a result of the excellent use of space, which has been thoughtfully and creatively planned to enable them to participate in the variety of activities offered. Their sense of security and belonging is fostered through the consistent staff team and the familiar daily routine.

Children's welfare is very effectively promoted through the staff's excellent organisational skills. Records and policies are exemplary in their level of organisation and review and are an accurate representation of the provision. The staff have a desire to learn and to continually improve their practice and the children benefit from the well-established programme of continuing professional development.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to improve policies and records with regard to accidents, uncollected children, child protection and complaints. The provider was also asked to increase the range of resources to support equal opportunities. The children's welfare is safeguarded as the policies have been amended and now meet the required standard. The children are now able to access a good range of resources to promote their knowledge of the wider world and to increase their understanding of others.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. 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.
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## 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 the contents of the first aid box are checked frequently and replaced as necessary
- ensure that the locks on the toilet doors can be easily opened from outside.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)