



Skool Kidz

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY314994
Inspection date	18 April 2006
Inspector	Kay Roberts
Setting Address	St Saviour's Junior School, Brookleaze Close, Larkhall, Bath, BA1 6RB
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Registered person	Skool Kidz Childcare Ltd
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?

Skool Kidz at St Saviour's Junior School, Bath first registered in 2005 to provide out of school care. The management organisation also have responsibility for a further 2 settings registered in the name of Skool Kidz. It is located in the self-contained canteen at St Saviour's School. Children who attend the group are from a number of local schools.

The group operates during term time from Monday to Friday from 15.15 hours until 18.30 hours. During holidays the group opens from 08.15 hours and closes at 18.30 hours. Registration at both the after school and the holiday play scheme is for 24

children. Currently there are 54 on roll for the after school group and 52 for the holiday play scheme, for both groups there are 6 children under 8 years. The group caters for children with English as an additional language and those with special educational needs. There are 5 staff, although only 3 work on a regular basis. All staff hold a relevant child care qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because staff follow highly effective procedures and practices which meet children's physical, nutritional and health needs. Children know how to promote their own good health. Recognising that physical exercise helps to keep them fit, they participate in running competitions and games of football. They develop large muscle skills as they climb, balance and stretch on the assault course. When the weather is inclement children continue to exercise using pogo sticks and playing cricket in one end of the room. Children understand the importance of hygiene and wash their hands before snack or a cooking activity. They recognise that things need to be kept clean and have fun washing the mini-bus and at the end of the session help to sweep the canteen floor.

Children help themselves to easily accessible drinking water throughout the sessions. Snack time is a social occasion when all children sit together. The three week varied menu ensures that children remain interested in the wide selection of healthy foods, which are available on a daily basis. Children particularly enjoy selecting from the extensive range of fruit for their smoothie. They are independent as they butter their own bread or toast and add a topping of honey, jam or marmite. Children do not go hungry as they can eat as much as they want. Fun activities have helped children to understand foods which are healthy to eat and those which are less healthy. For example, a café was created at snack time and healthy option menus drawn up by the children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a large in and outdoor area. The canteen is well organised so that children move around freely and play undisturbed by their peers. There is an area for relaxation with cushions in the book corner and at the other end space is available for physical activity. Although the colourful displays of children's art work brighten up the environment, the overall appearance of flaking paint is depressing. One child commented that the room looked a little frightening. Children are keen to enter the provision knowing that a broad range of clean, safe, age appropriate, toys and activities await them. They remain interested as toys are rotated and each month a selection of items from a toy library introduced. There is sufficient tables and chairs so that all children can sit together. The provision of a low level rail facilitates independence as children hang up their own coats.

Children play in a secure environment. The risk of children having an accident is reduced as staff are appropriately deployed. There is a detailed risk assessment and premises are checked on a daily basis, using a tick sheet, to ensure potential hazards are removed. However occasionally school staff place items in the room for storage, such as, chairs and it can take some time before they are removed. Fire safety requirements are met and children know the emergency evacuation procedure as they practise the drill on a regular basis. There are safe procedures for collecting children from school and for outings. Children are further protected as staff are knowledgeable about local child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are excited about the provision and ask parents if they can attend extra sessions. They put forward their suggestions for new resources and activities. The comprehensive, theme based planning ensures that children are actively occupied at all times. For example, during the holiday playscheme, children have access to a range of toys, equipment and a theme related craft activity before they leave for an outing at 09.30 hours. The varied outings are scheduled three times a week during holidays. Children talk with enthusiasm about recent visits; going on an Easter egg hunt in Victoria Park, mini-golf and bowling. They recall the previous events as they look at the well presented range of photographs of outings to Wardour Castle and a Ghost walk around Bath. Based on children's interests, the after school group, operates clubs on different nights, for example, dance and drama, sport, art and craft. Children co-ordinate the groups and on a music night bring in CD's from home and develop their own dance routines. Planning provides many opportunities for learning to be extended. Children participate in science activities; they create crystals on a string using salt and sugar and look at air pressure in relation to paper aeroplanes. Children explore a range of materials, such as, clay and gloop (cornflour and water). They develop fine muscle skills as they make pom, poms for the Easter chick mobile and paint boxes for their Easter biscuits. Playing darts children develop co-ordination and calculate the scores. The atmosphere is calm and relaxed as children concentrate on what they are doing. Proud of their achievements they tell their friends of their success on a Nintendo game. As children have fun they confidently express their views, show independence and motivated to learn.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children make a positive contribution to the provision. They put forward suggestions and know that staff listen to what they say. All children are welcomed and form friendships with those from other schools. Children know what behaviour is expected as they devised the rules. As a consequence they are well behaved, honest, respectful of each other, polite and able to share. Children are proud of their topic work on display in the canteen. One display is called 'Our Planet Earth' and this topic helped children to appreciate the cultures of others, as they looked at different countries in turn, tasting the traditional dishes and Chinese writing. Readily

accessible resources reflecting positive images of diversity reinforces a positive attitude to difference. Children learn about nature as they go on treasure hunts and feed nuts to the squirrels in Victoria Park. They are aware of the local community as they walk around Bath and visit the Theatre Royal to see 'Mother Goose. Children are relaxed in the knowledge that there is a close working relationship with parents. Parents are aware of practices within the setting as they sign a contract and know what policies and procedures are available. Discussion with staff and the notice board keeps parents up to date. Parents comment positively about the provision; children thoroughly enjoying the activities and effective communication with accommodating staff.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. There are rigorous recruitment procedures and bi-annual appraisal ensures the ongoing suitability of staff to work with children. Staff are clear about their remit as there is a thorough induction and effective communication systems. Skills are updated as staff attend regular training, such as, health and safety. Staff assume responsibility for co-ordinating different aspects of care such as special needs and child protection. Generally the group is well organised; involving children in the running of the group, planning of activities, layout of the room and appropriate staff deployment. However at the beginning of the holiday playscheme session there is a short period of time when staff ratios are not maintained. On outings children are placed into key groups, but this system does not operate at other times. Documentation is well organised, regularly reviewed, confidentially maintained and where appropriate shared with parents. Paperwork complies with the requirements of the National Standards so that children's health, safety and welfare are promoted.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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

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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):

- improve the décor so it is more attractive to children
- ensure there are always 2 members of staff present throughout the session
- further develop the key worker system during holiday playschemes so that it effectively supports all children

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