



## **Kidscare Unlimited**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY315423
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 March 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Anne Georgina Phillips
<b>Setting Address</b>	The Portacabin, St John's First School, Blakebrook, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 6AP
<b>Telephone number</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Estelle Hackett
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

KidsCare Unlimited – St John's Out of School Club opened under its present ownership in 2005. The club operates from a demountable building which is situated at the rear of St John's Church of England (C. of E.) First School and is adjacent to St John's C. of E. Middle School, in Kidderminster, Worcestershire. It is managed as part of the KidsCare Unlimited organisation. The club has access to additional toilet facilities in the host school to supplement the single toilet and wash basin available in the building itself if required. There is a paved and fenced outdoor area surrounding the building for outdoor play. There are steps to the entrance and fire exit. The club has sole use of the building during session times and serves the adjacent schools

only.

The club is registered to care for up to 16 children aged from 3 to under 8 years at any one time. It opens each weekday from 15:00 to 18:00 during school term times only. Additional children aged over 8 years also attend. There are currently 29 children from 5 to 13 years on roll.

There are three part-time staff that work with the children each week, two of them hold appropriate early years qualifications. All three staff are working towards further relevant qualifications and two of them are undertaking play work training. All three are first aid trained. Staff from the host organisation may provide cover in case of holiday or sickness.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a clean and well kept environment. Children's health is supported well by the staff who have a secure knowledge of good health and hygiene procedures which they consistently implement despite the limited facilities within the premises for hand and dish washing, and food preparation. Children are developing a good understanding of hygiene practices. They wash their hands promptly when they arrive from school, before eating their snacks, after using the toilet and after messy activities. They know and explain the reasons why they do this. There are shady places for them to play outdoors when the sun is strong.

Children are well nourished. They learn the value of healthy eating when eating varied and substantial snacks, for example, they make their own 'double decker' sandwiches from a variety of fillings such as sliced meat, cheese, different spreads and cucumber. Children eat heartily and sociably together and are offered drinks at specific times. Some children have their own bottles of water but drinks are not readily available to all children throughout the session. Children's individual needs are known and respected and acted on by staff when preparing food.

Children enjoy good opportunities to be active or relax and play quietly indoors. They develop their manipulative skills when doing interesting craft activities, playing pool or board games, and using large construction bricks. Children's access to active play outdoors and fresh air and exercise is limited by the lack of a readily secured outdoor play space and the availability of play resources although the latter is in hand.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in a light, warm, child friendly environment which is made attractive and welcoming to them with frequently updated displays of their individual handiwork. The available space is well planned to maximise children's access to

toys, resources and quiet areas but space is just sufficient at times when the club is full and the opportunities for outdoor play are limited. There is only one toilet and wash basin for children's use in the building itself which means that children sometimes have to queue to use them.

Children use suitable and safe equipment. It is clean, of good quality, in good condition, varied and interesting to all the ages and stages of development of the children attending. Children self-select and confidently make choices about their play activities from those presented on the tables or cupboards around the room. They play challenging board games together or use craft materials to make individual presents for their family. Plans to improve children's access to sport items and resources that positively reflect diversity are already being implemented.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe by observing and owning the safety rules within the setting. They carefully explain the emergency evacuation procedure and list the staff roles as well as what they have done in actual practices. Children's welfare is generally safeguarded well because staff are alert, constantly check and monitor their safety, and keep the premises secure. They have a secure understanding of their child protection responsibilities, all are first aid trained and there is a comprehensive regularly checked first aid box. However, communication with parents and the school about children's attendance at various activities and changes in the arrangements for collecting them has not always been effective and could compromise children's safety.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, well settled and involved. They form friendly relationships with the staff and each other so that they are confident and self-assured in the club's welcoming environment. They enjoy this time of the day when they can relax, do their homework; play alone or with their friends. Staff are friendly, approachable and interested in the children so that individuals feel valued and at home sharing information about their school day or recent holiday photographs.

Children are independent and have good access to a wide range of planned and free play activities with a good balance of creative, imaginative, and quiet play, but lack planned opportunities to be active. Activities provide a good level of interest and challenge to children, for example, they concentrate closely on a board game or build with the construction bricks. They are able to concentrate and spend time on their chosen activity, taking pride in the results such as the individual baskets they have made at the craft table and the pictures they have painted. This builds their confidence and self esteem.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They feel special when all the

children help to acknowledge and celebrate their birthday. Staff know individual children and their needs well so that all children are actively welcomed, supported and included. Children see some positive reflections of diversity in the play resources they use which promotes their understanding of the wider world. Their access to these will be improved when newly ordered resources arrive. Children are treated with respect and learning to respect the needs of others, for example when taking turns and giving others time to make choices, for example, when choosing the food for their sandwiches.

Children are very well behaved. They make very positive relationships with staff and each other, joining up in groups to play actively or quietly. They develop a very good understanding of the boundaries and limits for behaviour. Staff act as good role models by giving explanations and helping children to negotiate so that they form and maintain friendships which enhance their play and enjoyment.

Parents receive a friendly welcome and good quality information about the club in well presented packs of information. Their comments and suggestions are sort and there are daily opportunities for them to share information about their children to ensure that they are kept up to date and children's needs are met. Relationships between staff and parents are generally good. However, despite efforts by staff, a secure partnership with some parents and the adjacent school has not yet been fully established so that communication about changes affecting children is not always effective.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Good leadership and teamwork from knowledgeable and well motivated staff has a positive impact on the care and support provided to children. Good progress has been made in establishing this new club since its recent registration. Qualification requirements for staff are met and they are proactive in developing their skills to further enhance the experiences available to children.

Staff generally work well together to promote children's health, security, and overall safety within the limitations of the existing facilities. They have identified and are actively working to improve the facilities and environment and have acted promptly to address issues identified at this inspection by writing to all parents to clarify communication about children's safety.

Children are very happy and settled in the welcoming setting because staff plan and organise a balanced, interesting and accessible child-friendly environment. Children are self-assured, independent and confident to make choices. The smooth running of sessions and well deployed, observant and sensitive staff ensure that children are carefully supervised and their individual children's needs are met. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children that attend.

Records relating to children are well kept and stored. There are good written policies and procedures in place to protect children and promote their well being but some of these are not always confidently owned and implemented by staff. For example, the

written risk assessments and the complaints procedure.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable as this is the first inspection.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration in 2005.

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):

- improve the opportunities for children to access active and outdoor play, and ensure that all children can help themselves to water when they are thirsty
- improve children's access to toilet and hand washing facilities and ensure that the arrangements for the preparation of food comply with current food hygiene requirements
- ensure that arrangements for the safe arrival and collection of children are robust and confidently implemented
- ensure that written risk assessments and complaints procedures are used effectively.

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