



## Hippo's Club

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY270130
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 June 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Valerie Thomas

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<b>Registered person</b>	Hippo's Club
<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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Hippo's Out Of School Club is run by Hippo's Out of School Club committee. It opened in 2004 and it operates from the hall, dining room and three classrooms at Saint Austin's Roman Catholic Primary School. The setting serves the families of children attending the school and children from the surrounding areas in school holidays. Children have access to an outdoor area. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 07.45 to 08.45 and from 15.15 to 18.00 during term time. The club also operates a holiday play scheme from 07.45 to 18.00.

There are currently 65 children aged from 5 to 11 years on roll. The club supports a number of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The club employs five members of staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health within the setting is supported well by staff that implement good health and hygiene procedures. Children learn the importance of personal hygiene through good daily routines and are independent in their self-care skills. They know that they need to wash their hands before eating their snack as they have germs on their hands. Clear procedures in place for sick and infectious children help prevent the spread of infection. This helps to keep children healthy.

Children's dietary needs are met in partnership with parents. All needs are fully discussed and recorded and healthy snacks are provided at snack times. Children enjoy eating the ham sandwiches followed by strawberries and kiwi fruit. They are able to help themselves to drinks throughout the sessions. During school holidays children bring packed lunches. This helps children develop a positive attitude to healthy eating.

Children have good opportunities for physical exercise and playing outside in the fresh air. Children have lots of fun playing a game of 'rounders' with their friends and the staff. They put great effort into running fast so that they can get all the way round to score a rounder. Children develop their balancing skills well as they step from tyre to tyre to reach the 'den' in the game of aliens. Indoors children enjoy taking part in a game of 'Twister' twisting and bending their bodies stretching out to reach the coloured circles. Consequently, this promotes children's good health and encourages them to develop a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Security and safety of the premises indoors is good. Staff monitor access to the group at all times and set boundaries for children when playing. Visual safety checks are made daily to ensure all areas are safe and appropriate for children's play and written risk assessments are in place. However, the outdoor area is not completely safe as some of the wire fencing has gaps in it with wires protruding. This compromises children's safety.

Fire evacuation procedures are displayed and drills are practised. Children know that when they hear the bell they need to line up by the door, go outside, stand by the junior building and wait for staff to call the register. This helps children to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

Children benefit from the clear boundaries put in place by staff. They learn that they should not play under the table as they may get hurt by the chairs or other children's feet. Children know that they need to put their socks on after playing 'Twister' as they may slip on the floor. This helps children stay safe. Children use a wide range of good quality resources. They are able to make decisions about their play through choosing from the toys stored in the cupboard. Procedures implemented by staff help ensure the toys remain safe for children to play with. There is good space within the setting to enable children to play freely and comfortably with the toys.

Staff have a suitable understanding of child protection issues and know the correct procedures to follow for reporting concerns. There is a detailed policy in place which gives clear guidance to staff. Consequently, children's welfare is safeguarded.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident and secure in the club's friendly environment. They enjoy their time where they can relax or take part in the wide range of activities offered. They concentrate and show good interest with the varied range of resources available. Children show much enjoyment as they sit and design their trophies and have lots of fun as they play outside. They use their imagination well as they use the storage box to make a push chair for the dolls and concentrate well as they create their models with the Lego. Planning shows that children have many opportunities to develop their creative skills. For example, they make shortbread biscuits and decorate them and make juggling balls. Children take part in colouring competitions as they design a football top for the World Cup. As a result children's interest is maintained well and children are happy.

Additional activities are provided during school holidays such as outings to various places of interest. Photographs and planning show that children visit Stafford castle, bowling and an activity centre. Older children have also taken part in first aid training organised by the club and children can choose if they want to attend the French lessons provided.

Children are supported well by the staff and relationships are positive and caring. They encourage children's independence and develop their play and learning. They engage children in a game of 'Who am I' encouraging children to think and ask questions. They encourage children to tidy away the toys before they go outside and choose captains to pick their own team for rounders. Consequently, children are learning to become self-sufficient. Children's self-esteem is encouraged well through praise and presenting certificates for their achievements. As a result, children are happy and confident in the setting.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy positive relationships with the staff and with each other. They are

valued and respected as individuals and their self-esteem and confidence is developed well by staff with use of praise and encouragement during their play. Children behave well and respond positively to the clear boundaries put in place by staff. Children know that if staff put their hand in the air they need to be quiet and listen. They share the toys and wait patiently for their turn to bat in the game of rounders. Children negotiate well deciding whose turn it is to be 'on' by using the rhyme 'ibble, dibble, black bobble'.

Children learn about the wider world as they celebrate festivals such as the Chinese New Year, tasting rice and prawn crackers and making fortune cookies. However, the range of resources available to promote positive images of culture and disability do not fully extend children's knowledge of diversity. There is good support for children with learning difficulties and disabilities and staff work in partnership with parents to meet their needs.

Relationships with parents are positive and friendly. They are made aware of how the setting operates through discussion and all written policies are available in the parent pack. Children's individual needs are fully discussed and recorded and a daily exchange of information keeps parents informed of their child's well-being. In addition parents' views are sought through annual questionnaires to identify if the club can improve the care for children. This enables staff and parents to work together to meet the needs of the child.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

There are effective recruitment procedures which ensures staff are appropriately vetted and suitable to work with children. Children benefit as staff attend additional training to extend their knowledge such as 'Promoting positive behaviour' and 'Child protection'. Appraisal systems are completed annually and there is a written induction procedure that is implemented with new staff. All policies and procedures are in place and are used effectively to contribute to the quality of care provided.

The welcoming environment and good space ensures children can play comfortably with the toys and equipment. Children are happy and enjoy their play in the setting. They are settled and confident and the organisation of activities ensures staff can meet children's individual needs. Support for children is good and staff are caring and positive in their interactions with children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the club were asked to ensure that children's records contained emergency contact details. All records have been updated and include the additional details. This helps to ensure that children's needs can be met if an emergency arose.

## **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.

## **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 safety of the outside area by ensuring that the damaged fencing does not pose a hazard
- increase the range of resources available to promote positive images of diversity.

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)