



The Gap Club - HC

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY287212
Inspection date	15 July 2005
Inspector	Anne Jacqueline Nicholson
Setting Address	C/o Englefield Green School, Barley Mow Road, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0NP
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Registered person	The Gap Club - HC
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

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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 Gap Club (Englefield Green School site) was registered in 2004 to provide out of school care (both after school and holiday care). It operates out of a detached building, the hall and several classrooms within Englefield Green School. There are kitchen and toilet facilities available as well as a secure outside play area. It serves families from the local schools, the local community and surrounding villages.

The After school Club caters for 48 children aged from 3 years. The holiday play scheme caters for 64 children aged from 3 years. The group operates Monday to Friday between 15:00 and 18:30 (term time) and between 08:30 - 18:30 (holidays).

The setting makes provision for children with special needs and/or who speak English as an additional language.

There are sufficient staff present to meet at least the minimum required staff to child ratios and these hold relevant qualifications or are working towards recognised qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Childcare Service.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy an excellent variety and stimulating range of activities that help to promote their good health and encourage their development of a healthy body. They enthusiastically enjoy an extensive range of activities, promoting physical play both indoors and out. They have daily access to outdoor play and use the main field to play planned and impromptu imaginative and sporting games.

Children's welfare and health needs remain protected through the implementation and consistent use of a comprehensive range of health forms, specifically designed for the different aspects of the provision. For instance there are different forms for the after school club, summer scheme and outings to ensure that all relevant information is sought and recorded. Children learn and consistently demonstrate, through effectively implemented routines, an excellent awareness of the importance of good personal hygiene. They understand why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet, before eating food or to prevent accidental contamination to children with allergies. Staff receive specialist training to administer any invasive medicines and have health plans for children ensuring that they receive the correct dose and appropriate treatment.

Children receive an extensive variety of nutritional snacks throughout the year. They take a very active part in deciding the following week's menu and staff help them recognise foods that are good for them as well as those that reflect the current topic. For example, during 'World Week' children chose healthy fruit and snacks originating from the countries they were covering. Children sit at the table during snacks and enthusiastically interact with each other and staff, who acknowledge this as a valuable sociable time for all. Children can help themselves to a drink whenever they need one and staff effectively encourage children to drink plenty especially in warm weather to prevent dehydration.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a bright and welcoming environment where appealing resources and a good range of activities are already in place for them to access. Children have a good quantity of well-organised play space that meets their different play needs. They can safely and independently access resources from the suitable storage areas. Children remain safely protected and escorted when on the premises

through good staff deployment and risk assessments. Before commencing on outings staff ensure that parental consent forms and risk assessments are completed.

Children regularly participate in fire drill practices to ensure they are familiar with, and aware of, how to evacuate the premise if a fire or incident occurs. Children develop an awareness of personal safety within the provision and whilst on outings through staff giving clear explanations and safety guidance. This ensures they know to keep themselves safe in different environments.

Clearly written child protection policies, based on the Area Child Protection Committee procedures, safeguard children's safety and welfare. Staff's basic knowledge of child protection is good however, multi-agency training is yet to be completed by the manager.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enthusiastically enjoy a variety of stimulating activities that are appropriate to their ages. They benefit from comprehensive well thought through planning by staff, that ensures a considerable variety of activities and outings are available to them. For instance during the summer schemes the variety of opportunities available include trips to the cinema, several day trips and theme days. Clear guidance is on display in the resource shed to ensure and assist permanent and cover staff when selecting appropriate resources. This ensures an optimum balance of activities are available over the week.

Children confidently choose and request toys and resources for themselves. They can access reference folders showing extensive activities and craft ideas to complete and the resources required to do so. Children can independently go and choose from these and staff ably facilitate this. Children confidently and enthusiastically provide their own contributions to activity planning. Staff acknowledge and include these in the session. For instance, children playing outside with a remote controlled car receive interactive support from staff in designing and marking a chalk track on the playground and doing manoeuvring skills with a ball. Children benefit from an extensive range of outings, particularly during the summer scheme, where they visit the local swimming pools, go skating and other regular well organised outings. Children's own daily needs are highly valued, they are able to set their own routines and pace, including times for rest and quiet play if this is what they wish. Children respond animatedly and with enthusiasm to the activities and to new challenges, they are confident and staff provide excellent support to them in their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn to respect themselves and other cultures through participating in a variety of activities promoting the wider world. Careful and long term planning by staff ensures that all children are included and themes cover children's own cultures as

well as others. Children enjoy including food and craft activities within these themed sessions and talk animatedly about the countries previously covered during world week and the Olympics.

Children receive encouragement to join in all activities and staff ensure these are adapted to meet each child's individual needs. Individual health care plans ensure that children with special needs are successfully integrated. Staff demonstrate a good awareness of special needs and training to support the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is being sought. Children demonstrate good behaviour and see staff setting positive examples. Their good behaviour is valued and encouraged through verbal and physical praise.

Parents and children receive a friendly and welcoming reception at the setting. Staff greet them on first name terms and this assists in the development of positive relationships. Children are eager to talk to staff when arriving and parents happy to linger to talk when collecting their children. Good verbal and written information is given to parents and staff about the practices, roles and responsibilities within the provision. Children and parents complete questionnaires ensuring their feedback of likes and any dislikes about the provision. This ensures they have a direct input into the service they receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The premises are well organised. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. Children and parents benefit from the management, developing a comprehensive operational folder with clear written policies and procedures in place. Children benefit from there being a high child to staff ratio of suitably qualified and motivated staff, who display caring attitudes and demonstrate a good knowledge of play work. Staffs commitment to training demonstrates a commitment to improvement and development. The provision meets the needs of the range of children.

Good recording systems ensure that children's and staffs attendance is recorded however, currently, arrival and departure times are not accurately detailed.

Partnership with parents is positively promoted and a strength of the provision.

Parents remain fully informed of their child's achievements, with the staff discussing all aspects of the children's care with them. Regular newsletters and questionnaires ensure they receive current and relevant information about the provision and the activities their children will be doing.

Management have clear objectives and defined roles and responsibilities. They evaluate practice continually to ensure continual improvement within the provision.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the provisions first inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- develop staff knowledge to ensure that local child protection procedures are followed.
- improve staff knowledge to promote the welfare and development of children with additional needs
- ensure attendance register accurately records children's arrival and departure times as well as showing staff present.

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