



## **The A-Z Club**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY331478
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 June 2006
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<b>Registered person</b>	Devonshire Primary School After School Club
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	

## 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?

The A-Z club opened in March 2006. It provides After School Care for children who attend both Devonshire Infant and the Junior school. It is run by a committee and operates from the main hall within Devonshire Infant school. A maximum of 26 children under eight years may attend, although children aged up to the age of 11 years are welcome. The provision is open each weekday during term time only, from 15:00 until 18:00. All children share access to a secure, enclosed play area.

There are currently 15 children aged four to 11 years on roll. The club will support children who have learning disabilities and who speak English as an additional

language.

The club employs two staff. Both of these hold appropriate early years qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They receive a snack which includes fruit to help them develop an understanding of which food choices are healthy. Children ask for a drink whenever they need one, this encourages children to think about their personal needs.

Children enjoy daily opportunities for physical exercise that contribute to their good health. They love playing outside where they have the choice of using a variety of resources, such as tennis rackets, skipping ropes and footballs.

There are good procedures in place for food preparation, staff have completed a food hygiene course and food is served appropriately, for example, children use tongs to serve up some items, such as tomatoes. However, the washing up facilities do not promote good hygiene practice because staff have to boil up kettles to wash up the plates, cups and cutlery from tea. Children know they have to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. However, they do not always remember to use soap and the girls have to dry their hands using a roller towel, this does not help prevent the risk from cross-contamination.

All staff are first aid trained which means any child who has an accident is dealt with effectively and promptly. The first aid box is fully stocked and any accidents are recorded appropriately so children's health is protected.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in an environment that is familiar, safe and secure. Security is good so children are unable to leave without being accompanied by an adult. Staff are vigilant in their supervision and are able to identify potential hazards by the use of a thorough daily risk assessment on the premises and outside area. Children are becoming aware of their own and other's safety, for example, not running the cars along the floor "where people can trip and hurt themselves". Children have access to a satisfactory range of good quality toys and resources which are suitable for the ages of children attending

There are appropriate fire safety precautions in place and staff have talked to children about the emergency plan. However, there has not been an opportunity to practise this procedure meaning some children are not familiar with evacuating the building safely. Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff have a good understanding of the child protection procedure. They have clear guidelines to follow

and know who to contact in the event of a child being abused or neglected.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident in the environment. They enjoy the friendly atmosphere of the club and the opportunity to meet up with their friends from school to relax and play together. Children relate well to staff who interact appropriately with them, for example, "how was school today?" and "what would you like to do now?". Staff are caring and children benefit when they sit together to use the computer or play pool. This contributes to children's emotional well-being.

Activities are planned and usually linked to a theme, such as mini beasts and the World Cup. There are good opportunities for children to experiment and investigate, for example, watching food colouring travel up a celery stalk and planting a miniature garden. Children are good at initiating their own play and love the chance to show off their new dance routine, teaching the other children and staff what to do.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children behave well and know what is expected of them. Staff use behaviour management strategies that encourage positive behaviour; parents and children agree to the "rules of the club" by signing a "home contract". There is a suggestion box by the main door which encourages those using the club to contribute ideas to improve the service. Parents are made to feel welcome and staff ensure there is a regular exchange of information keeping them up-to-date with progress and welfare of their children. This ensures consistency in care. However, the complaints procedure is not fully accessible to parents.

All children are included in the day to day routine and staff are aware of individual needs. There are satisfactory opportunities for children to learn about the world around them with use of resources and activities.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from committed staff who have a positive attitude and care about children's well-being. There is an effective recruitment procedure which ensures staff are appropriately vetted and suitable for the role. Children are well supported and the routine is organised so they know what to expect on a daily basis allowing for quiet and active play. There is a comprehensive range of policies and procedures that guide staff in their day to day work with the children. This contributes to consistency in care. The required records are in place which promote children's health, safety and well-being. Overall the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

Not applicable.

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

There are no complaints to report 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**

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):

- ensure any recommendation made by the environmental health officer regarding washing up facilities are met
- ensure good hygiene practice is in place regarding hand washing
- make sure children are familiar with the emergency evacuation procedure
- make the complaints procedure easily available to parents

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)