



Cats Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY330788
Inspection date	02 August 2006
Inspector	Joanne Lindsey Caswell
Setting Address	Coppingham Cottage, Balcombe Road, Horley, Surrey, RH6 9EF
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Registered person	Childcare and Learning (Pebbles) Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Cats Club is part of the Childcare and Learning Group Ltd. It has been registered under its current ownership since 2006. Cats Club provides out of school care for 36 children, aged from three to under eight years. The club is open during term time, from 07:30 to 09:00 and from 15:30 to 18:30, offering both before and after school care. During all school holidays, the club is open from 07:30 to 18:30. The club offers a school drop off and collection service to local schools. The club operates from a converted detached house. Children have access to rooms on both the ground and first floor. A single storey building to the rear of the house provides an additional room for activities and mealtimes. A fully enclosed garden provides an outside play

area.

There are currently 150 children, aged from four to 13 years, on roll. The club supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

A team of seven staff work with the children, including drivers. At present, only the manager holds a recognised play work qualification. A team of additional staff provide cover during school holidays.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

There is very good provision in place for children to enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise. There is a very large garden with a good range of resources for climbing, swinging, digging, push/pull toys and using wheeled toys. This enables children to move in a variety of ways to improve their muscle development and co-ordination. As a result of this, children have very good physical skills. They competently jump and hop during activities such as French skipping and use the monkey bars with good control. There are additional opportunities for children to take part in active sports, such as archery and bowling. This enables children to benefit from vigorous activity to promote their good health.

Children are sufficiently protected against illness and infection. Children clearly understand the importance of regular hand washing and recognise they must wash their hands thoroughly after handling the pet rabbit, after toileting and before eating. This enables children to implement effective personal care routines to safeguard them from infection.

There are procedures in place to protect children in hot weather. Children understand the importance of applying sun cream and wearing sun hats. During outside play, there are designated shaded play areas and plans are in place to extend these, enabling children to play safely outside during the hottest parts of the day.

Children enjoy plenty of drinks and can access drinking water freely. This ensures that all children receive sufficient drinks to ensure their good health, particularly when they are playing outside in the garden. Children's dietary needs are met well and children enjoy a healthy range of freshly-cooked nutritious meals and snacks. Children learn about healthy eating as they take part in activities involving healthy foods, such as making fruit milkshakes. Mealtimes are regarded as social and relaxed occasions and children enjoy good portions of food to satisfy their appetites.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are maintained to a satisfactory standard. Children have free access to all areas of the premises and toilet and hand washing facilities are easily accessible. The rear garden is fully enclosed and staff are vigilant in carrying out regular safety checks before the garden is used by children.

Children use resources which are safe and are age-appropriate. Some resources are stored at low level, enabling children to make their own choices and self-select their own equipment.

Children learn to keep themselves safe as part of activities. For example, children understand that they have to be careful whilst playing with the sand and there are safe waiting areas surrounding the swings, to ensure children's safety. Activity work also includes opportunities for children to learn about safety and understand the role of the emergency services.

Children are transported safely in well-maintained vehicles. Staff ensure that procedures are in place to manage emergency situations and provision is in place for close supervision of children on all vehicles. Younger children travel safely in vehicles as there are appropriate car seats and staff are aware of the proposed changes in legislation, regarding safe travel arrangements for all children.

Most areas of the premises are safe, although the kitchen is not inaccessible to children and leads directly off one of the group rooms. Although most children understand that they are not allowed to enter the kitchen, the area is not obstructed whilst staff are cooking. This does not fully safeguard children from potential hazards in the kitchen.

Most staff have an awareness of their responsibilities regarding child protection and some staff have completed relevant training. This ensures that children are sufficiently protected. Staff have a sound understanding of the appropriate procedures to follow, should they have any concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled. The environment is extremely warm and welcoming and offers a very homely and fun atmosphere for children. Staff organise a fun and stimulating range of activities, including outings, and there are good opportunities for children to learn new skills and develop close friendships. Children play very well together and enjoy the companionship of one another. For example, children show very good social skills and happily take turns, share and negotiate in their play. As a result of this, the atmosphere is very happy and positive and creates a harmonious environment for children.

Children and staff enjoy very close relationships. Staff actively engage in play and games with children and respond positively to children's own interests and ideas, enabling children to lead and direct their own play.

Children broaden their experiences as they develop new skills and enjoy a diverse

range of outings. For example, there are plans in place for children to visit Tilgate Park; enjoy the maze at Tulley's Farm and learn about wildlife when they visit a local bird of prey centre.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's views and ideas are listened to and valued. Staff are committed to working in partnership with children to respect children's own interests and opinions. For example, staff devise feedback forms for children and actively encourage their views and comments. As a result, children develop a strong sense of belonging within the club. They feel secure and comfortable in the staff's care and benefit fully from the very child-centred environment. This enables children to relax and unwind after their busy day at school and enjoy a fun and happy environment during school holidays.

Children take an active part in the organisation of the club and their art work on display reflects their own work. They form their own clubs and create and display their own posters on behaviour boundaries, such as reminding children to be kind to one another.

Children behave well and clearly understand staff's expectations. Staff ensure that children are occupied at all times and benefit from a diverse range of activities and outings to keep them stimulated and challenged appropriately. Children are kind and respectful to one another and the older children are mindful of the different needs of the younger children. All children share, take turns and co-operate very well together and use negotiation effectively to resolve any differences.

Children learn about the wider world through activities. The activity timetable for the summer holiday includes activities incorporating different countries of the world, such as 'Aussie' Day, Japan Day and an African safari. There are pictures and posters on display depicting different cultural festivals and customs, enabling children to learn about the customs of other children and their families.

There is provision in place to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Staff are experienced in supporting children with individual needs and a designated Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is in place.

Staff are dedicated to working in partnership with parents to ensure consistency for children. Parents are warmly welcomed into the club and information is freely displayed for parents. This ensures that parents are fully informed of all club policies and procedures and forthcoming activities and events. Parental feedback is welcomed and valued.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

There are suitable arrangements in place to ensure that all staff, including drivers, who have contact with children are appropriately vetted and cleared to work with

children. An effective staff induction programme ensures that new staff are fully aware of all company policies and procedures. This contributes towards the smooth running and organisation of the club.

A team of staff are employed to work with children. However, at present, only the manager holds an appropriate qualification. This is a breach in regulations and does not meet the staffing requirements of National Standard 2 - Organisation. As a result, not all staff caring for children are appropriately qualified.

The daily routine is planned well and meets the needs of the children. The school holiday timetable offers a good range of activities, including child-initiated play and structured activities. This enables children to choose their own activities and benefit from the relaxed environment. Staff allow children time to relax after their busy day at school.

Most regulatory documentation is in place and is maintained appropriately. However, there are no written systems in place for staff to accurately convey messages and information between parents/carers and school staff. These details are currently only exchanged verbally.

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 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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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 staff training and deployment to ensure that at least 50% of staff working with children at all times hold a recognised early years or play work qualification
- ensure the kitchen is inaccessible to children at all times
- improve the documentation for recording children's existing accidents and any incidents that have happened outside of club hours

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