



Kid-Zone 3

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	503792
Inspection date	07 November 2006
Inspector	Ann Lee
Setting Address	Old Roan Methodist Church, Altway, Aintree, Liverpool, L10 6LF
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Registered person	Angela Mary Makinson
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

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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kid-Zone 3 has been registered since September 1999.

It is based within the church hall of Old Roan Methodist Church. There is a fully enclosed outside play area. There are currently 32 children aged from four to 10 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. None have special needs or speak English as an additional language. The club is open five days a week. Sessions are from 15.00 to 18.00 during term time and 08.00 to 18.00 during school holiday periods.

There are four staff who work with the children and they all have early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment where staff take steps to keep them free from infection and cross contamination. There are rotas in place which staff follow to ensure that areas used by the children are clean and that toys and equipment are hygienic and well maintained. Paper towels are used for hand washing to prevent the spread of infection and children learn about good personal hygiene because the staff talk to them about the importance of appropriate hand washing.

Staff are trained in first aid and all of the necessary policies and procedures are in place to ensure that children are safeguarded in the event of accidental injury or illness. Parents complete an information form which provides details about their children's specific medical and dietary requirements so that staff can meet their individual needs.

Two small snacks are provided during each session and drinks of water and juice are left out so that children can help themselves. The menu is displayed for parents and this indicates that the snacks are limited in variety and nutritional value. For example, although fruit is often on the menu the children are also given biscuits on a regular basis.

Children have daily opportunities to practise their physical skills. In good weather staff take equipment outdoors so that they can run about and play games in the fresh air. Indoors there is space for children to take part in energetic parachute games, rounders and circle games, and the staff ensure that children enjoy some form of physical activity during each session.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and secure in the setting because they are closely supervised both indoors and on outings and staff follow the comprehensive health and safety procedures to ensure that risks are identified and minimised. The front door is always locked, parents and visitors must ring for access into the building and a password system is in operation to ensure that children never leave with unauthorised people. There are good systems in place for the collection of children from school and staff wear uniforms so that they can be easily identified. Children learn about road safety on their journey from school and staff ensure that they practise the fire drill so that they know how to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

Children and parents are made welcome and the children's art work is displayed so that they feel a sense of belonging in the group. The play areas are spacious, which ensures that children have freedom of movement. Toys and other resources are set out on tables and on the floor within easy reach of the children so that they can make choices about what they do. There is a wide variety of toys and equipment, such as role play items, puzzles, board games, books, dolls and arts and crafts materials which provide a stimulating environment for children. The toys and equipment are regularly checked by staff to ensure that they are safe and hygienic.

All staff are trained in child protection and know their roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children from harm. There is a designated person responsible for child protection and the appropriate documentation and emergency telephone numbers are available, so that staff know what to do if they are concerned about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children feel happy and settle well in the group because they are made welcome and encouraged to share their experiences of school and home. Staff are friendly and approachable and they create a warm, lively and child friendly atmosphere, so that children feel comfortable and at ease in the group.

A good variety of toys and equipment is available and staff devise a range of stimulating and interesting activities so that children are well occupied and have fun. The children play well together and develop good relationships with each other and with the staff, so that they feel secure and at ease. A tent with comfortable cushions is used to provide a quiet area where children can relax or look at books. Other children like to play games together, do their homework or watch videos. They enjoy being creative as they make firework pictures using paint, glue and glitter and there is much laughter and excitement when the whole group join together to play energetic parachute games.

Children who attend the holiday club take part in dance workshops and enjoy weekly outings to the swimming pool, theme parks and other places of interest. They also learn about the wider world when visitors are invited to talk to the children about different topics, such as 'Poppy day'.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are made welcome in the setting and parents provide information so that staff can deal with them according to their individual needs. There is disabled access to the building and all of the necessary policies and procedures are in place to ensure that all children are included in the activities.

Children learn about the wider world when they visit places of interest, such as farms and theme parks and they enjoy visits from people in the local community who talk to them about their work or hobbies. Children have access to a range of resources, such as dolls, dressing up clothes, puzzles and books which provide positive images of different cultures, religions and disability. Staff also use discussion and devise arts and crafts activities to help children to learn and appreciate differences.

Staff are good role models and they use praise and encouragement to help children to be well behaved and cooperative. There are clear behaviour management procedures in place which are shared with parents and children also help to devise their own ground rules for behaviour. Children behave well and they are happy and well occupied. They talk confidently to each other

and to adults during circle time and they become more independent as they help to clear away the toys and equipment.

Relationships with parents are good. Staff provide them with information about the service during introductory visits when they complete the necessary documentation and are invited to read the policies and procedures. There is a notice board which displays information, such as the menu for snacks and they also receive a regular newsletter which keeps them informed about any changes or forthcoming events. However, the complaints procedure has not been updated to take account of new guidance so that parents are not fully informed about how to make a complaint. Parents express their satisfaction with the service provided and with the care and concern shown to their children. They feel that their children are happy and secure in the setting and are provided with a good range of stimulating and interesting activities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are safe and secure in the setting because they do not come into unsupervised contact with people who have not been vetted. All staff have early years qualifications and they are encouraged to access any relevant training to improve their knowledge and understanding of child care issues. There are good systems in place to ensure that staff are well supported in their work. There is an induction procedure which ensures that new staff know and understand the policies and procedures so that they can safeguard the welfare of children. All staff attend regular staff meetings and the appraisal system ensures that training needs are identified.

The correct ratios of adults to children are maintained at all times so that children have sufficient support and supervision. There are contingency arrangements in place to ensure that absent staff are replaced quickly by other staff who work in different groups in the organisation.

The premises are well organised to allow children plenty of space to play and explore. There are areas provided for different kinds of play and for rests and relaxation. Toys and equipment are set out within easy reach of children so that they can make choices about what they do in the group.

All of the necessary records, policies and procedures are in place to safeguard the welfare and care of children. They are stored confidentially and regularly reviewed and updated in line with current legislation. Staff talk to parents after each session to keep them informed about their children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection all of the recommendation have been addressed. Staff complete and record regular risk assessments on the premises to identify hazards and minimise the risk of accidental injury to children. The safety of children has further improved because a gate has

been provided to prevent access to the group, by other users of the building. A tent filled with cushions and books provides a quiet space where children can rest and relax.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- continue to improve snacks to ensure that they are varied, healthy and nutritious
- update the complaints procedure in line with the latest Ofsted guidance and make it available to parents.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk