



## **Zigzags @ St Patricks Ltd**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY332753
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Denise Sixsmith
<b>Setting Address</b>	St. Patricks Primary School, Radnor Drive, SOUTHPORT, Merseyside, PR9 9RR
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<b>Registered person</b>	Zigzags@St Patricks Ltd
<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?

Zigzags @ St Patricks Ltd was registered in 2006. It is managed by a board of directors. The club runs from the school hall, classroom one, the recreational area and library within St. Patricks Primary School, Southport, Merseyside. There is a secure, fully enclosed junior playground and field for children's outdoor play. The club provides places for children attending St. Patricks Primary School.

A maximum of 40 children aged from four to under eight years may attend the club at anyone time. The club is open each weekday from 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.30 to 18.00 during term time. There are currently 33 children aged from four to under eight years on roll. Older children from the school also attend the club. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The club employs four staff who all hold appropriate early years qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the staff effectively follow good health and hygiene policies and procedures. A high ratio of staff have undertaken first aid training to enhance the welfare of the children. Parental consents are obtained and medication and accident records correctly maintained. Children are reinforcing their learning of how to be healthy and follow good hygiene practices while they attend the club because the staff are vigilant and explain why good hygiene is important. They engage in planned activities about keeping healthy, for example, how to keep teeth healthy. Children wash their hands readily before sitting down to their snack.

Children participate eagerly in the regular exciting outdoor activities planned by the staff. They have great fun negotiating the large scale climbing and balancing equipment and joining in the treasure hunt. A gazebo is available during sunny weather to provide shade for the children and indoor dancing and exercise activities are provided when the weather prevents outdoor play.

Children are developing a positive approach to healthy eating because they are provided with healthy snacks and drinks while they are at the group. Children readily help themselves to a choice of fruit or tomatoes from the bowls on the snack table. A supply of fresh water is easily accessible to children throughout the session. Staff plan activities that encourage children to make their own healthy foods, for example fruit trifle and varied fillings for warm pitta bread. Children were observed to enjoy a wholesome snack of either beans or ravioli on toast followed by fruit and jelly. The weekly menu is displayed for parents and children.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure, clean and well maintained environment that is vigorously monitored by the staff. Children can move freely and safely between the different areas because adults are appropriately deployed to ensure children are well supervised. Children have free access to selecting good quality toys from the low level mobile units that are clearly labelled to assist children when tidying up. Staff have a good awareness of security and ensure that the children know the rules and boundaries that are in place to ensure that they are safe.

Children have a high regard for the safety rules of the club and clearly explain that the big bell means to leave the building because it might be a fire. Older children are encouraged to take responsibility to assist the younger, new children to find their way around safely. Children are kept safe while on the premises and are assisted by staff to ensure personal safety through discussion and topics. Children have access to a quiet area of the room to enable them to relax and chat with friends.

Children's welfare is protected well through the staff's clear understanding of their role and responsibilities with regard to child protection issues.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the group because the staff provide a friendly, exciting environment ensuring all children's self-esteem and confidence is fostered well. The room is set out in advance with a variety of toys and planned activities to enable children to readily engage in activity. Children settle eagerly and happily to the relaxed routine of the club, where the staff's aim for children to play together in a happy, safe environment is achieved. Children have ample opportunity to develop their decision making and negotiating skills as they freely choose between self-initiated play or planned activities. They play quietly alone if they wish or pair up to present a puppet show for others in the quiet area. Children thoroughly enjoy dressing up and playing the musical instruments while marching around the room or sitting with staff members to engage in the healthy teeth activity.

Children relate very well to each other and cooperate to achieve an end goal because the staff provide positive and appropriate support. All children develop their creativity while engrossed in stimulating practical activities, such as decorating biscuits, producing Brazilian masks, bird's beak origami and holiday pictures for the display board.

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

The provision is good.

Children are all valued by staff who have high expectations of them. Staff offer praise freely ensuring that children develop confidence and know when they have done well. Children readily offer to help the new, younger children to settle into the group and also volunteer to be tea time helpers. They have a voice in the group through the children's committee meetings where the idea for the tea time helpers was developed. Children have helped to draw up and display a list of rules to promote positive behaviour in the club. This ensures that they all feel safe and comfortable. All children are included and valued because the staff are committed to inclusion. The club has limited resources that positively reflect diversity, however, the club is currently enhancing these with some borrowed resources. Children are kind, considerate and thoughtful to each other within the group because the staff provide positive role models. All children are busy and involved in the activities and as a result their behaviour is good.

Children's needs are met well because warm and friendly relationships have been established between staff and parents, and information is shared regularly. Parents enter the group readily and engage in easy conversation with the staff about their children's achievements. They are provided with plenty of information about the group as part of the enrolment procedure and regular surveys are conducted by staff. Parents receive regular newsletters which includes an outline of the forthcoming activities to enable them to contribute to their children's development. Parents state that their children thoroughly enjoy attending the group, consequently, they are very happy with the service.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and well organised environment because the staff have a clear sense of purpose. Children are happy and can move freely and independently throughout the setting. They receive a good balance of indoor and outdoor activity. Sound policies and procedures are in place which assist the staff team to work effectively together to provide a successful service for the children. A well thought out system for recruitment and selection is in place. However, the induction procedure does not clearly demonstrate that required elements are met within set time scales. A clear record of attendance is in place to ensure the safety of the children.

Staff are committed to their own self development and ensure a good standard of care is provided for the children through their ongoing childcare study. Effective monitoring arrangements are in place to ensure the children's welfare is promoted and confidentiality is observed. Children are assisted to develop their independence and create friendships because the staff have organised a stimulating, enjoyable club.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration 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):

- increase resources that reflect diversity to assist the children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the wider world

- ensure that the induction procedure clearly demonstrates that required elements are met within set time scales.

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)