



Scothern Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	253552
Inspection date	13 September 2005
Inspector	Beverly Kemp-Russell

Setting Address	Ellison Boulter's School, Sudbrooke Road, Scothern, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN2 2UZ
Telephone number	07944 709024
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Registered person	Scothern Kids Club Association
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Scothern Kids Club is committee run and opened in 1998. It operates from the hall within Ellison Boulter's School. The setting is situated about six miles from the city centre of Lincoln. The club offers after school care to children from the local area and surrounding villages.

There are currently 89 children aged from 3 to 8 years on roll. There are currently 5 children who have special educational needs and no children who speak English as an additional language.

The club opens 5 sessions a week, term time only. Sessions are from 15.15 to 18.00 hours and children attend for a variety of sessions.

There are 6 staff working with the children. At least half the staff hold an appropriate early years qualifications, including the co-ordinator.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Practitioners follow clear procedures for maintaining hygiene which ensures that the children are cared for in a clean and healthy environment, for example, tables are wiped with anti-bacterial spray prior to being used for food. Children are encouraged to become independent in promoting their own good health such as routine hand washing before food and children show confidence in using this ability. Children's health is promoted by health and medication records and by staff holding current first aid certificates. However, not all accident records are signed by parents which could compromise children's health.

Children have a satisfactory choice of snacks which include biscuits and crackers. However, there are limited opportunities for children to have fruit so that healthy eating choices are promoted. Practitioners ensure that children always have access to water throughout the session.

Children enjoy regular opportunities for physical activities and are skilled at using a range of small equipment to promote co-ordination skills. Children make much use of the outdoor area to run and play in the fresh air each day. There is plenty of provision for children to use equipment such as sports equipment to develop their large body skills. Staff discuss how fresh air is good for you and link to healthy lifestyles.

Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs and the wishes of their parents. Staff provide comfortable scatter cushions and a carpeted area for children to rest and relax comfortably.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment which is suitably maintained and safe. Staff ensure that safety procedures such as risk assessments are completed and recorded to help staff minimise hazards which may harm children. Fire drills are carried out but not frequently enough to ensure the safety of children.

Children use appropriate equipment such as tables and chairs to sit, eat and play safely. They also use a suitable range of developmentally appropriate resources which are regularly checked for safety. Staff use explanations about safety so that children are able to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe. The building is kept properly secure so that unwanted visitors do not gain access to the setting or

present a risk to the children.

Children are well protected because staff have a sound understanding of their role in protecting children and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. Staff are aware of main signs such as injuries in odd places and inappropriate explanations, changes to behaviour. They are aware of the need to record this in the incident book and to report to their manager. Children are protected by staff's awareness of child protection guidelines and sound procedures support the manager in protecting children from abuse. However, the new staff member is not fully aware.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The care and play experiences for children in the kids club are sound. Children are content and settled and enjoy close relationships with their carers. Children show interest in what they do such as using sports equipment and enjoying free play. Children make choices from a satisfactory range of resources provided each day and they are absorbed throughout the session. Children are confident and keen to get involved in activities. They form sound relationships with staff and other children. Children are aware of the expectations of staff and behave very well.

Children's language skills are developed through the effective questioning techniques used by staff. Children are valued and the staff listen and respond to what they have to say. Children feel a sense of belonging and are relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. Children are cared for by staff who work with parents to meet individual needs and ensure all children are fully included. All children and parents receive a warm welcome from staff who are sensitive to each family's circumstances. Each child is known as an individual and time is spent making sure their needs are met and continuity of care is offered. Parents' views about their child's needs are actively sought before the child starts at the setting, and on a regular basis throughout their time there. Parents receive information about the setting and information is shared verbally on a day to day basis.

Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour and through acting as good role models and using appropriate methods, such as consistent and gentle reinforcement of rules, children learn good manners and to care for others. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement from staff, building their confidence and self-esteem.

Children are beginning to understand and respect differing needs and cultures through some planned activities and resources. Children's knowledge of the local community is increased by them getting out and about in the village. They regularly

share news about their own lives and their thoughts.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for and protected by a caring staff team. Staff move around the room and outside to maintain suitable ratios to keep children safe and support their care and play. Most policies and procedures are known by the staff but are not always used effectively to promote children's health and well-being. Children are cared for in a secure environment and staff are effective in promoting children's health and well-being. The needs of the range of children for whom the setting provides are met. Staff are attending training courses to enhance their knowledge and understanding.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection in August 2004 the setting was asked to make a number of improvements to its provision for children. They were asked to: develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, ensure arrangements for induction of new staff are effective and ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

Since the last inspection the setting has made some progress in addressing these issues. The deputy takes lead role for child protection issues and has developed an informative child protection folder for staff and parents. Procedures are in place to ensure new staff receive suitable induction training by introducing a staff handbook. Staff provide an adequate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice such as books, dressing up clothes, puzzles, posters and by planned activities such as Diwali.

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 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?
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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 all accident records are signed by parents
- improve fire safety precautions by regularly carrying out emergency evacuation procedures with children
- ensure all staff have a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

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