



## Discovery Vine Ltd

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY283035
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Lynne Naylor
<b>Setting Address</b>	Harris CP School, Wychnor, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire, PR2 7EE
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<b>Registered person</b>	Discovery Vine 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Discovery Vine Ltd is one of a number of out of school clubs operated by Discovery Vine Ltd. It opened in 2004 and operates from the main hall in Harris CP School in Preston. A maximum of 40 children may attend at any one time. The group is open each weekday from 07.45 to 09.00 and 15.20 to 17.45 during term time. The out of school club serves the children attending the school.

Children have access to an outdoor play area. They also have some access to the library area and two other areas.

There are currently 70 children on roll, of which 31 are aged from four years to under eight years. The club supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The service employs five staff to work with the children, of these one holds an appropriate child care qualification. The company also employs staff who can provide cover at the different venues.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Staff protect children's health by taking appropriate steps to minimise the spread of infection. In the event of an injury an identified person, with up to date first aid training, carries out appropriate treatment. A very clear system is in place to record accidents and administered medicine. In addition, a useful running log of accidents is maintained for the effective monitoring of accidents.

Children know that washing hands helps to prevent the spread of germs. They follow routine hand washing procedures without prompting. The consents, policies and procedures, relating to health, are effective in ensuring continuity of care between staff and parents, through good communication and appropriate action.

On arrival, children have a choice of water, blackcurrant or orange cordial to drink. Throughout the session, if they are thirsty they pour their own water or cordial. This is kept clearly visible at the side of the room. This enables children to identify their own needs and help themselves to drinks. Snack time is a pleasant social occasion with children and adults sitting together and chatting about their day. Children develop good eating habits with the provision of healthy snacks and drinks. They take turns to go to the kitchen area and choose fruit from an attractively set out tray of freshly cut apple, pear, kiwi, orange, pineapple and cucumber. Each evening one other item is also on offer, such as crumpets. Children's dietary needs are met because staff use their good knowledge of children's specific requirements and their likes and dislikes to provide alternative snacks, when required.

Children's health benefits from daily fresh air and exercise in the school's outdoor areas, weather permitting. They are keen to go outside and enjoy a wide range of activities, for example some boys and girls practise football skills with an adult and some choose equipment, such as hoops and skipping ropes. Records show children regularly exercise by playing team games, such as rounders and football, outside and relay races and parachute games, indoors.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment, which is clean and well maintained. They move freely and safely around the hall, where resources are well organised. Children independently select toys from a good range of clean, safe equipment thoughtfully set out, by staff, prior to each session. Toys and equipment, which are regularly checked for safety, meet the needs of the full range of children who attend.

The children are kept safe through staff's vigilance and good practice, such as completing a visual safety check, prior to each session. This ensures hazards are effectively minimised. Children know how to evacuate the building safely as evacuation procedures are practiced regularly. Safe collection procedures ensure children leave with a known adult. A full written risk assessment is not available on site; however, sound induction systems ensure new children and new staff are well aware of the procedures required to protect children and keep them safe, particularly when outdoors. Staff are very much aware of potential hazards and take positive steps to ensure children are kept free from harm.

Children take responsibility for their own actions and the safety of others. They show a clear awareness of safety rules and a good understanding of why boundaries are set. They discuss and agree rules, which are written and drawn for those who do not yet read. Plans show the posters will be displayed, after lamination, so children can refer to them, during the session. Children regularly discuss topics, which raise their awareness of how to keep safe.

The children's welfare is safeguarded because staff demonstrate a clear understanding of potential signs of abuse and neglect; also of whom to contact in the event of identifying a child protection concern. The setting's written statement is well understood by staff.

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

The provision is good.

A well resourced environment enables children to initiate their own play. For example, they play imaginatively with the tent, the dolls house and with the small world equipment, such as the cars and roadway mat. They also play boxed games and make models from construction sets. For safety reasons, children do not enter the storage cupboard; however, they are aware of what is available and know that they can ask if they want a specific item. In addition, staff plan in advance, interesting activities, one for each day, relating to a theme, such as myths and legends. For example, this week, children enjoy designing their own mythical creature.

Children who attend before school are offered a choice of healthy breakfast foods and drinks and then generally draw and colour pictures. Children who attend after school have access to a full range of activities, which are suitable for their ages and abilities. They are not actively involved in the planning of activities, however, any suggestions they make are included in the future activities. They complete evaluation sheets once or twice a week saying what they did and what they enjoyed.

Children relate well to each other. Adults are skilled at asking questions, which challenge children or develop their ideas. Positive relationships are formed between staff and the children who are happy and settled. Staff are attentive to individual children. They value their contributions and take a genuine interest in what they are doing in their play. Staff acknowledge children's achievements resulting in high levels of confidence and self-esteem.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and treated with equal concern. Through discussion and age appropriate craft activities, children learn to respect the views of others; however, resources that reflect positive images of disability are less evident on a daily basis. Children increase their knowledge of the world around them, through discussions about other countries, such as China, India and Greece. They learn well about the immediate world through the themed activities provided.

Staff are good role models, emphasising the importance of being kind, friendly and respectful towards one another. Children know and understand the rules, which are consistent. They help to tidy away equipment and use good manners at snack time. Children play harmoniously together. They effectively negotiate with each other and take responsibility for their own behaviour. They are very well-behaved, polite, take turns and show concern for others. A team points system is in place to promote good group behaviour, for example, the leprechauns collect shamrocks, which turn into pots of gold. Regular prizes are awarded and children respond well to meaningful praise; this helps to raise their self-esteem and confidence.

Children's individual needs are effectively met. This is because staff obtain the relevant information from parents in order to be in a position to give appropriate care. Parents are provided with a wealth of information that includes the setting's policy statements and procedures. Good use of notice boards and photographic displays provide parents with essential information about the provision. Parents are warmly welcomed and chat to staff when they collect their child. The views of parents are actively sought, verbally and through regular questionnaires.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for by staff that work well as a team and are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities. This serves to ensure children are appropriately cared for in the setting. Although the registered person is in breach of a regulation by not informing Ofsted that the person in charge on a daily basis has changed, the rigorous procedures in place for the vetting of all staff mean that children's safety and well-being is well maintained.

Children benefit from good levels of adult attention, with staff establishing routines in which children are familiar. Children are kept safe and healthy since staff show a strong commitment in keeping up to date with training. Good support from management enables staff to access training that in turn helps to enhance the quality of care that children receive. Children benefit from the good systems of communication in place. Staff address any areas of concern or practice issues as they arise and through regular staff meetings.

Children are cared for in a stimulating environment due to good use of time, space and resources. They access an interesting range of activities, which suit their developmental needs. Due to good staffing levels, children have a real choice about whether to play indoors or outdoors. The required documentation is up-to-date, well organised and stored confidentially. This

contributes to the safe and efficient management of the provision. Staff effectively follow the setting's policies and procedures which serve to protect children.

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

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

At the last inspection, two recommendations were raised. The setting agreed to provide a complete staff list for all the organisations venues, also stating those who are qualified; and to ensure that risk assessments cover all the areas used by the children.

Since the last inspection, the first recommendation is no longer valid as, since October 2005, it is the responsibility of the organisation to ensure that staff are appropriately qualified and vetted. However, as at least half the staff must be appropriately qualified and currently, there is only one staff member holding an appropriate qualification, the organisation must limit the numbers of children attending, aged less than eight years, to a maximum of 16 in order to meet the correct ratios. Therefore, aspects of this recommendation continue following this inspection.

It is not clear that all areas used by children are included in the risk assessment. New staff rely on verbal information regarding safety procedures because the full written risk assessment is not available on site; consequently, it is not readily available to all staff. Therefore, aspects of this recommendation also continue following this inspection.

### **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 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 the risk assessment covers all areas of the premises, indoors and outdoors, and identifies actions to be taken to minimise identified risks

- implement procedures to notify the early years child care inspector at the earliest opportunity of relevant matters, such as changes to the manager
- ensure at least half of all staff hold at least a level two qualification appropriate for the care or development of children.

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