



Shining Stars Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY239846
Inspection date	31 January 2007
Inspector	Sandra Daniels
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Registered person	Dorothy Bello
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?

Shining Stars Kids Club was registered in 2002. It is based at the Chafford Hundred Campus. The group is located in the canteen in the secondary school and toilet facilities. The group has use of part of the school playground for outside play.

The club serves the local area and provides facilities for children before school, after school and in the holiday periods. Shining Stars Kids Club is registered to care for no more than 65 children from four years to under eight years at any one time. There are currently ten children from four years to under eight years on roll.

The club opens five days a week, during term times, from 07.00 until 09.00 and from 15.00 until 18.30 and in holiday times from 07.30 until 19.00.

There are three full time and one part time members of staff working with the children, all of whom hold appropriate qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into premises which are clean and hygienic. They learn to understand simple good health and hygiene practices through daily routines and activities. For example, children all wash their hands after using the toilet and before snacks and practitioners help them to understand about the potential dangers of germs. Policies and procedures are in place for first aid and accidents, thereby helping to ensure that children are well looked after. Practitioners pass on information from school relating to children's health and well-being to parents, supporting consistency of care. Staff hold current first aid certificates and are confident in their ability to deal with minor accidents and medical emergencies. Children are made comfortable and suitably cared for until collected should they become sick whilst in the group.

Children benefit from healthy snacks. For example, children enjoy hot-dogs, beans on toast or soup for tea and a choice of cereals and toast for breakfast. Staff are aware of children's dietary needs and food preferences because they are discussed with parents. As a result, children's individual dietary and cultural needs are taken into account. A menu is on display to inform children and parents what snacks will be served. At snack times children eat in a happy and relaxed social atmosphere, helping to develop their social skills as staff encourage and join in discussions. Children have free access to drinks throughout the session and practitioners help to prevent the spread of infection as each child has their own beaker with their name on.

Children's physical development is promoted through regular energetic outside and inside activities such as basketball and rounders. Provision is also made for children to sit quietly and look at books should they wish to rest.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a canteen which is part of the secondary school on the campus. It is not, therefore, completely secure as the canteen is sometimes used as a thoroughfare by staff and students from the school. During the breakfast club there is a short period of time when the canteen is open and used by some students. The provider has given the security of children careful consideration and has actively taken steps to minimise risks to children. All electric sockets have safety covers fitted and tables and chairs are organised in a way that restricts children's access to the servery area and the main door. Although there is a notice on the door reminding people to keep it closed as there are young children being cared for, there are still occasions when the door is left open by someone and has to be closed by a member of staff. Risk assessments are in place, however, children's safety and security is potentially compromised due to these issues. Staff follow safe procedures for delivering and collecting children to and from school and accurate registers are maintained for both staff and children.

Children have sufficient space to run around indoors and all toys and equipment are checked regularly to ensure they remain safe and appropriate for all children using the club. Children learn how to keep themselves safe through meaningful routines and activities. For example,

practitioners explain why certain procedures are necessary, such as why children must never leave the room by themselves. Children practise regular emergency evacuation procedures with staff and begin to understand what action to take in the event of an emergency. Practitioners are aware of their responsibilities to keep children safe and fire fighting equipment is located in the server area.

Staff have a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues and are aware of the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about a child. Therefore, children are safeguarded from harm and neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and feel comfortable within this group. They enjoy a range of free-play activities, arts and crafts and physical play, both inside and outside. Children have opportunities to explore a range of play equipment independently and also engage in organised group activities. Children make themselves at home and can freely access the toys and resources on offer. These include drawing, board games, card games, construction toys, books and puzzles. Children become engrossed as they play enthusiastically in the home corner, pretending to be running a restaurant.

Children relate well to staff and one another and they are supported by practitioners who join in with their activities and conversations as appropriate, sharing children's fun. For example, staff sit with children helping them to develop their creative skills as they draw and colour and children enjoy playing 'pairs' with a member of staff. Children have great fun in group activities and are generally able to share and take turns. When children arrive at the group after school they have circle time where they take turns to speak about their day at school. This helps practitioners to get to know the children and their likes and dislikes, enabling them to better meet children's needs.

Children are very confident and are keen to know what is going on. They openly ask questions and practitioners respond with interest. They concentrate well on activities and gain a sense of achievement as they are praised by staff. Children make choices from the activities available to them and know that they can always ask for other toys or games from the cupboard.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into the setting and are cared for according to their individual needs. They learn about the world in which we live through activities, such as acknowledging various cultures and festivals, often visiting the library on campus to research and get ideas for activities. Children have access to an adequate range of resources that enable them to develop a positive view of diversity within society, for example, books, jigsaw puzzles and small world characters. Children with additional needs are welcomed into the setting. Staff have a positive approach to ensuring they provide an inclusive environment where every child can make a contribution and enjoy themselves.

Children contribute to setting the 'rules' for the club and these are on display throughout each session. Generally, children behave well as they are involved in enjoyable activities. However, some incidents of unacceptable behaviour go unchallenged by practitioners, resulting in some children feeling unsupported. There is a behaviour management policy in place and children do understand right from wrong. This is reinforced by staff as they set good examples for behaviour.

Parents are greeted warmly by staff and have the opportunity to share any relevant information with them to ensure their child's needs are met. Information about children is gathered and recorded at the beginning of the placement, ensuring children receive continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall children's needs are met. Children are comfortable and relaxed being cared for by familiar and friendly staff in the group. There are systems in place to ensure that adults working with children are suitable to do so and staff have a structured induction period. All practitioners hold appropriate childcare qualifications and have a sound understanding of children's needs. However, there was a breach of National Standards during the inspection when there was a short period of time when only one member of staff was on the premises caring for two children. The National Standards requires a minimum of two members of staff to be on the premises at all times. The registration certificate is displayed and all necessary records are in place and shared with parents. Daily attendance records are well maintained and clearly show arrival and departure times of staff and children. Children's welfare, care and learning are supported by the required policies and procedures which help to underpin the group's practice. The provider is committed to the ongoing improvement of the group and provides a professional service.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to several recommendations to improve practice. The provider agreed to ensure that the person in charge holds a recognised qualification suitable to the position and that suitable members of staff are always working directly with the children. The provider now holds a level three National Vocational Qualification and she ensures that suitably qualified members of staff are always available to work directly with the children. The provider also agreed to ensure that staff show interest in the children; talk to and listen to them; ask questions; praise and encourage them. Children enjoy their time at the group where they feel valued by practitioners who actively listen to them and engage in conversations with them. Interactions are often light-hearted and staff clearly know each child very well. The provider also agreed to ensure that all toys and play resources provide sufficient challenge and meet the needs of all children and that all children are encouraged to join in group activities. Since the last inspection, numbers of children attending the group have reduced and the majority of children attending are under eight years of age. Toys and games are appropriate for this age group and there are also some resources which are more suited to older children, should they be required. Children were interested in the selection of toys and games set out for them and were occupied throughout the sessions. Children develop confidence as they can make choices and decisions about their play. All children joined in with a game of indoor rounders and most thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The game, however, became a little too competitive and the

misbehaviour of some children went unchallenged by staff. This results in some children feeling unsupported by staff. The issue of behaviour was another of the recommendations set at the last inspection as the provider agreed to ensure that all staff take responsibility for behaviour management to ensure consistency within the club. The provider also agreed to make sure that the outside door is kept closed at all times. This has not been sufficiently addressed as there were several occasions during the inspection when the door was left open. The club uses the canteen in the secondary school and school children and staff frequently pass through, leaving the door open behind them, thus compromising the safety and security of the children in the club. A section of the canteen is cordoned off with tables and chairs and there are notices restricting children's access to the kitchen and door area, but these are not always totally effective.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take action in order to meet the National Standards.

Ofsted received a concern on 07 August 2006 regarding National Standards 3 (Care, learning and play), 4 (Physical environment), 5 (Equipment), 7 (Health) , 8 (Food and drink), and 12 (Working in partnership with parents and carers).

An Ofsted childcare inspector conducted an unannounced visit on 16 August 2006 but the provision was closed for the summer holiday period.

A further unannounced visit was conducted on 12 September 2006 to investigate this concern in relation to the National Standards.

As a result of the visit the provider was given 3 Actions as follows:

National Standard 1 (Suitable person)

ensure that the manager has at least a level three qualification appropriate to their post, at least two years' experience of working in a day care setting and that they have appropriate skills and ability to do their job

National Standard 6 (Safety)

assess the risk to children in relation to accessible plug sockets and take action to minimise it.

ensure that a record of all visitors to the setting is maintained.

A satisfactory response has been received to the actions set and the provider remains qualified for 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 above complaint is logged appropriately in the setting's complaints record.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- ensure that there is always a minimum of two members of staff on the premises at all times
- further develop risk assessments, with specific regard being given to the issue of sharing the premises during the time when the canteen is being used by school pupils during the breakfast club hours and ensuring children are not able to leave the premises unattended
- ensure that all staff are familiar with the group's behaviour management policy and put appropriate procedures into place when managing unacceptable behaviour in order that children feel supported.

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