



## Denmead Express

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY330609
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Lisa Ellis
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<b>Registered person</b>	Horndean Technology College
<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?

Denmead Express registered in 2006 and is a satellite scheme of another out of school club run through Hampshire County Council. It operates from Denmead Infant School and comprises of a large classroom with adjacent corridor space and access to kitchen and toilet facilities. Children also have the use of the outside playing area, the school hall and the computer suite. The club currently provides care for 30 children.

Children attend from Denmead infant and junior schools. Children coming to the club from the junior school are collected by a member of staff working in the out of school club. The group welcomes children with English as an additional language and those that have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The club is open Monday to Friday 15:00-18:00 during the school term. There are four members of staff employed to work with the children, of which two have a child care qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are familiar with the daily routines that help them to be healthy, for example they independently go off to wash their hands before eating. Staff further promote good hygiene by ensuring tables are cleaned with anti-bacterial spray before children have their snacks. Children are well protected from the spread of infection as the group does not care for children that have contagious ailments.

Children are dealt with appropriately following accidents as there are always staff with first aid qualifications on site and there is a well stocked first aid kit stored accessibly. Accidents are well recorded and shared with parents and there are effective systems in place to meet children's needs should they require any medication. Parents give their written consent for the group to give medical treatment but clear consent is not provided for staff to seek emergency medical treatment.

Children's dietary needs are met as they are provided with healthy snacks half way through the sessions. Children sit together to eat and have a 'chatter time' where they share any news with each other. They are offered fruit, yoghurts, bread sticks and biscuits as well as having constant access to drinking water to ensure they remain adequately hydrated. Some children bring in their own food to add to snack time, particularly if they are going off to another activity after the club has finished.

Children have access to the school playing fields, play ground, hall, trim trail and woodland walks. They have many opportunities to participate in physical activities, getting regular exercise and fresh air which helps contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from having sole use of a classroom while the club is in operation. They have direct access to toileting facilities and make use of many other areas of the school whenever they are available to them. The club's base room is well organised, allowing different children to be involved in a range of activities at the same time, for example some participate in craft activities while others play on a games console or choose to relax in the home corner. Children are welcomed into the group by staff who greet them by name upon arrival to make them feel welcome.

Children have access to a range of developmentally appropriate resources that are stimulating and meet their needs. Children can access equipment independently and feel comfortable on child height furniture. All resources and equipment are clean and well maintained to promote children's safety.

Children are learning how to keep themselves safe by practising regular fire drills. Staff organise these well to ensure all children have the opportunity to be involved in a drill so they know

what to do in the event of an emergency. Daily risks assessments are carried out to ensure the room, facilities and equipment remains suitable for children's use.

Children's well being is effectively promoted as staff have a good understanding of the procedures to follow to safe guard children. For example they are all aware of the need to record existing injuries and are clear on who to report child protection concerns to.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being given opportunities to participate in a range of activities that relate to the weekly themes. Each member of staff takes it in turns to plan activities to meet children's developmental needs. All children are keen to get involved in activities as soon as they enter the group. For example they start to choose recyclable items to build their own model robots in line with the current theme of 'toys'. Children play very well together, sharing and taking turns when playing in a group.

Children are well supported in their play by staff who recognise when to sit back and observe children and when to intervene in their play. Positive relationships have been established between staff and children, with children often seeking out staff to play with them.

Photographic evidence shows children participating in activities such as making their own puppet theatres, participating in art competitions, baking, doing papier-mâché and many more. This shows that children are provided with varied and age appropriate activities to keep them entertained.

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about the wider world through planned activities, such as celebrating Chinese New Year, and through incidental conversations about the differences they spot between each other. Equality is reflected in the group as all children are given opportunities to participate in all activities on offer. The club has a range of resources that promotes diversity to help children understand about different cultures and beliefs. Effective methods are in place to enable all children to move freely and safely around the room. Furniture has recently been changed round to ensure all children can access all the available resources and space.

Children are very aware of the behavioural boundaries and behave very well. The rules that they have devised themselves are displayed on the notice board to act as a reminder of acceptable behaviour. Children show a good understanding of sharing by asking staff to time them on the games console so they can all have a fair turn. Staff act as positive role models for the children and provide certificates of achievement for good work, positive behaviour and to recognise children's individual achievements.

Parents are asked to express their views on the quality of care at the group by completing questionnaires. Over a third of parents have responded so far, all making positive comments and asking the group to extend their opening hours to provide care before school and during

the school holidays. This reflects high levels of satisfaction of the service provided to their children.

Parents are provided with a detailed prospectus about the club, including what it can offer their children and explaining some of the policies and procedures to ensure the needs of all the children can be met. Parents also receive a termly newsletter keeping them informed of what is going on in the group. The club has recently won the best newcomer award from the local authority and has displayed the certificates for parents to view. New children are invited to visit the group with their parents to help them settle into the club prior to being left alone.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The club meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides care. All of the required paperwork is in place although consent for emergency medical treatment requires clarification. Documentation is stored confidentially and is shared with parents as necessary to promote the welfare of the children.

Children are protected from unvetted persons as they are never left alone with them. There are appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures in place to ensure all staff working with them are suitable to do so. Half of the staff team have relevant qualifications and the other half are very experienced in caring for children of this age.

Good ratios are adopted at all times and registers of children's attendance are accurate and up to date to ensure their safety. New staff participate in an induction to ensure they are aware of the club's policies and procedures in order to meet the children's needs. Staff have ongoing training plans to keep them up to date with relevant courses such as child protection and first aid. They have regular meetings in which policies are discussed to ensure they work in practice with the children.

### **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):

- improve the parental consent form for permission for the group to seek emergency medical treatment

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)