

# Smartie Zone

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY336166
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Juliet Eileen Hartridge

<b>Setting Address</b>	Riviera Christian Centre, Hodson Close, Paignton, Devon, TQ3 3NU
------------------------	--

<b>Telephone number</b>	01803 528592
<b>E-mail</b>	info@rivieracc.org.uk
<b>Registered person</b>	Riviera Christian Centre
<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?

Smartie Zone was registered in 2006 and is an after school club and holiday play scheme run by the Riviera Christian Centre in their premises on the outskirts of Paignton. The club is registered to provide care for 24 children aged four to eight years, children up to the age of 11 years may also attend. Care is offered from Monday to Friday from 15:30 to 18:00 during term times for children who are at primary school full time. There is also an associated breakfast club run by Smartie Zone staff in a nearby primary school. Children have use of a hall and associated facilities. Two staff are employed as well as a volunteer, who have or are working towards appropriate child care qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. They learn about the importance of keeping themselves healthy when they are reminded to wash their hands before they eat their snack or after they use the toilet. The health of children is well protected as

appropriate documentation including medication records and accident recording systems are clearly in place. Accident records clearly link with the risk assessment process which further supports the health and safety of children in the setting. Children are cared for appropriately in an emergency as one member of staff has appropriate paediatric first aid qualifications, and parents provide consent to seek emergency medical treatment for their children if required.

Children have good opportunities to enjoy exercise and be active after the school day when they play in the spacious hall. They enjoy bouncing in the bouncy castle or sliding into the ball pool, and outings to the beach or park provide them with opportunities to play and exercise outdoors.

Children enjoy a varied and well balanced snack and learn about healthy eating as they have suitably healthy food choices, including fresh or tinned fruit, toast, pancakes, and biscuits. They are well hydrated as there is a jug of water available for them to drink when they arrive, and they have choices of milk, juice or water at snack time.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment is suitably safe for children and the resources are set out to create a welcoming environment with a wide range of resources from which children can select. Resources such as the bouncy castle are appropriately supervised by staff to ensure children can play safely. The doors are protected by alarms to ensure that children cannot leave the premises undetected and visitors to the setting are monitored as they sign in. Risk assessments are effectively used to ensure the premises and any outings undertaken are safe. Children are transported from school in the setting's mini bus, however there is no evidence of appropriate vehicle or drivers documentation to ensure children are suitably safe.

Children are reasonably well protected from the dangers of fire as fire equipment including fire extinguishers and a fire blanket in the kitchen, are in place. The fire evacuation plan is displayed and fire drills take place regularly. However fire drills are not logged, so it is not possible for staff to assess and compare the impact and effectiveness of the fire drills on the safety of children in the setting.

Children are well protected from abuse as staff are clear about their responsibility to safeguard children in their care and act in their best interests in the event of any concerns. Staff have undertaken appropriate child protection training.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled and enjoy coming to their after school club; they participate in a suitable and varied range of worthwhile activities. They have great fun bouncing together in the bouncy castle or playing in the ball pool or on the wheeled toys, and they have good opportunities to use their imaginations when they dress up. For example a favourite game is pretending to be dogs and the range of dressing up clothes, including a dog suit, support their imaginations well. Children also have good opportunities to learn about gardening when they grow organic vegetables such as tomatoes in grow bags outdoors.

Staff are warm, positive and enthusiastic and they join in with children's play readily, or chat to them about their day at school. This contributes towards the friendly and welcoming

atmosphere which is evident in the club and enhances children's enjoyment of play. Staff produce plans of the days activities, following consultation with children to ensure that there is a variety of choices, particularly in the school holidays. However these plans are flexible according to children's interests and wishes on the day, for example some children prefer not to participate in the craft activities available.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs and interests are known and respected by staff, and this helps children to feel valued and included. Children learn about diversity in a positive way when they play games or enjoy topics about other countries. They learn about the importance of helping others when they are encouraged to help the younger children in the group. Children who have learning difficulties or disabilities are well supported and included in the group and arrangements ensure they have suitable opportunities to join in all activities.

Children are well behaved and they are involved with devising the simple rules and expectations within the group which are clearly indicated in the children's club brochure, as well as being discussed with children. Staff are clear and positive about their expectations and deal with any unwanted behaviour in a calm way, according to the stage of development and understanding of the children concerned.

The club communicates with parents and carers generally well, and ensures that children are cared for according to their wishes. Detailed registration forms are completed and ensure that staff are aware of any specific needs, and parents provide their consent for outings. There is a clear complaints policy and system in place which parents and carers may follow if they have any concerns about the care provided for their children. There is a helpful and informative parents handbook which outlines the routines and activities available as well as information about key policies. However parents and carers are not suitably informed about the club child protection policy and the duty of staff to safeguard children, as the handbook does not contain information about the child protection policy.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are generally well cared for due to the sound organisation of the session and the premises by the staff. Good use is made of the spacious hall to ensure children have plenty of space to move around, and careful planning as well as good advance preparation of the room, helps to ensure that children enjoy their time at the club. All staff have undergone appropriate suitability checks and clear induction and appraisal systems are in place to ensure staff are suitable and appropriately trained in order to care for children.

Most regulatory documentation is in place, as well as policies and procedures, to support the care and welfare of the children, including the properly displayed registration certificate and children's records and register. However there is no record of the times and days of the attendance of staff. This means there is no accurate record for checking who is responsible for the children and therefore undermines their safety. This is a breach of a regulatory requirement.

Overall the setting meets the needs of the range of 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 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):

- maintain a log of fire evacuation drills according to the fire officer's recommendations
- ensure that parents and carers are suitably informed about the club's child protection policy
- ensure a record of the days and times of staff attendance is maintained
- ensure records of vehicles and drivers are maintained and available.

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)