

Debden After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY342614
Inspection date	26 March 2007
Inspector	Sandra Daniels
Setting Address	Debden Park Arts And Community Centre, Willingale Road, Loughton, Essex, IG10 2BQ
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Registered person	Deborah Jones
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Debden After School Club is privately owned. It opened in 2006 and operates from the Debden Park Arts and Community Centre in Loughton, Essex. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time and there are currently 15 children from five years to under eight years on roll. The club is open each weekday from 15.15 to 18.00 during school term times. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The club employs twelve members of staff and, of these, four hold early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Written policies and procedures are in place and effectively support and promote children's good health. For example, some members of staff hold current food hygiene certificates and are knowledgeable about various food allergies and special dietary requirements. Particular health needs and dietary requirements are obtained and recorded at enrolment and staff know them well, keeping written reminders in the kitchen area. Children enjoy a healthy range of snacks, for example, sandwiches with a choice of spreads, hot-dogs, pizza and a choice of fresh

fruits, and they all have free access to drinking water throughout the session. Children are consulted about their preferences for snacks and learn about hygiene issues when they help to prepare and serve the snacks. Practitioners reinforce this by explaining to children why it is important, for example, to wash their hands before preparing and eating foods. Children respond well and enjoy their snack time. They sit together in social groups and are encouraged to eat well and to experience new tastes.

Effective health and hygiene procedures ensure that children remain healthy and learn to take responsibility for their personal well-being. Toilet areas are kept clean and children wash and dry their hands independently after using the toilet, understanding why it is important to do so. Staff are good role models for the children as they clean tables thoroughly and involve children in many hygiene routines.

Children's good health is further promoted through the clear sickness policy. Medication is never administered unless a parent has given written consent and instructions. Accidents are professionally treated by staff qualified in first aid and are clearly recorded. Children show good levels of emotional well-being in this setting where the staff know them well. Children of all ages are happy and secure.

Children enjoy a great deal of indoor and outdoor physical activity. They are encouraged to play ball games outside and staff join in with this enthusiastically. Children develop skills of control and co-ordination as they walk on stilts and dance with streamers. Equally, children can sit and relax in the quiet area where they can look at books as they sit comfortably on blankets and cushions. Restful games and activities are also available for children to choose, for example, drawing, matching games and construction activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children use a good range of games and equipment and are knowledgeable about what is available as resources are stored in a cupboard off the main play room. Children can choose what they would like to do and are able to safely access toys under the supervision of a member of staff. Games and equipment are well maintained and staff ensure they are suitable for the ages of children attending. Children are cared for in a very safe and secure environment with a lively atmosphere. There is ample room for children to move freely between activities in one end of the room, whilst the other end is used for physical activities such as indoor hockey. Another room in the centre is available for quiet activities such as homework, drawing and craft work. Staff are fully committed to encouraging children to take responsibility for their own safety and that of others. For example, they explain to children why it may be dangerous to run around in the area where activities are taking place and why they must ask an adult to accompany them to the bathrooms which are situated just outside the main play room. Children are familiar with these safety rules and understand why they are in place as they are consulted about them and they are formed in partnership. Their awareness of how to keep themselves safe is progressing well because staff follow detailed policies and procedures for health and safety, fire safety, lost and uncollected children and outings. In addition, practitioners talk to children appropriately about how to take care of their own safety, both day-to-day and in the event of emergencies. Children are supervised vigilantly at all times, including when playing outside in the garden area.

Comprehensive safety precautions are taken when staff collect children from various local schools. Children's details and emergency contact numbers are always carried, along with a

first aid kit. Children are marked on a register when they are collected and are re-registered on arrival at the club. A full, written risk assessment is in place and is regularly under review. All potential risks to children are identified and action is taken to minimise them. All staff take equal responsibility for health and safety issues within the club and are fully aware of their responsibilities in this regard.

Children are well safeguarded from abuse because staff are trained and well briefed in all aspects of child protection. They have a thorough understanding of their role in this and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice should they have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have settled well into the group and are happy and comfortable in the lively, friendly and caring atmosphere. A specific play-worker is allocated to each child to help them to settle and become part of the group. Children are very interested in the wide range of activities prepared for them. They use their own initiative and are creative and imaginative because the play room is set up with a selection of different activities from which they can choose. For example, children enjoy physical activities such as playing outside or playing indoor hockey, construction activities with Lego, board games, billiards, drawing, books and making Easter nests with a member of staff.

Children relate well to one another and to the staff who take the time to listen to them and interact with them sensitively and respectfully. Children are very confident and demonstrate high levels of self-esteem as they are given many opportunities to make choices and decisions about their care and activities. They are consulted about new play equipment before it is purchased; the billiard table being bought at their request. Children are well supported by knowledgeable and experienced staff who understand when to become involved in children's games and when to stand back and enable them to develop their own play.

Above all, this lively group provides great opportunities for children to have fun and enjoy themselves after a day at school. All children enjoy their time at the club and look forward to attending.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children join in very well, take responsibility and play a productive part in this setting because staff are skilled at welcoming, enthusing and listening to them. Children feel a sense of belonging to the group as they are consulted on various issues. For example, they worked in partnership with the staff to devise the rules and responsibilities for the club. This results in children having a good understanding of the expectations for behaviour and the potential consequences of their actions. They learn to develop self-control and to take responsibility for their behaviour. Older children develop skills of negotiation as they are supported by staff to resolve their own disputes. Children learn to be kind and courteous and consider the feelings of others as they include them in their play. Children behave well because staff are motivated, vigilant and interested in teaching them to take turns, share and play fairly. Children respond positively to the calm and consistent approach of practitioners who give lots of praise and encouragement for good behaviour.

Group times, such as snack times, are sociable and help children to bond with each other as practitioners are talkative and inclusive. High staff ratios and very positive attitudes allow staff to successfully support children individually and in small groups. Children become aware of the wider society and are encouraged to consider and value diversity as some of the games and activities have a multi-cultural emphasis, for example, dressing-up clothes and books. Children learn to think of others as they mix well with children from other schools and those with additional needs are very well supported and play a fully inclusive role in the group.

Children receive consistency of care in the setting because staff actively listen to parents. Practitioners are friendly, approachable and interested, making time to speak to them when they arrive to collect their children. Parents express high levels of satisfaction with the service provided at the club, particularly the range of activities and the professionalism of staff. Parents receive useful information about the provision and their views and opinions are frequently sought and acted upon.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall, children's needs are met. Children are well protected and cared for by staff with experience, knowledge and understanding of child development. Children feel secure and at ease with familiar staff and surroundings and thoroughly enjoy their time in the setting. Recruitment and vetting procedures are working well. All members of staff complete Criminal Records Bureau checks and other references. However, there are currently only four members of staff who hold appropriate qualifications and the provider has agreed to devise an action plan detailing how the provision will ensure that at least half of all staff hold a level two qualification appropriate for the care or development of children. The manager carries out 'in-house' training sessions with staff on important issues such as health and safety and safeguarding children.

Staff deployment within the setting contributes well to children's good health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and ability to take an active part in the group. Staff to child ratios are high and practitioners use their time productively, getting involved and demonstrating a clear sense of purpose. As much time as possible is spent in direct contact with the children, enhancing their learning and enjoyment through meaningful conversation and example.

Policies and procedures work very well in practice to promote children's all round development and welfare. For example, risk assessments, child details and written parental consents provide sufficient information to enable very good care to be given. Likewise, records of accidents and medication are properly maintained. The daily attendance register is kept accurate and up to date, listing all staff and children who are in the building in case of emergency.

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):

- devise an action plan detailing how the provision will ensure that at least half of all staff hold a level two qualification appropriate for the care or development of children.

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