



Simply Kids

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY336201
Inspection date	12 January 2007
Inspector	Annette Stanger
Setting Address	Parkland Primary School, Old Park Road, BRADFORD, West Yorkshire, BD10 9BG
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Registered person	Briony Stewart
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?

Simply Kids is a privately owned after school provision. It opened in 2006 and operates from community and top west wing classrooms and has a kitchen area which is sectioned off from the play area. It is situated at Parkland Primary School in Bradford. A maximum of 16 children may attend the after school club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 15.15 to 17.45 during term time only. There is a secure enclosed outdoor play area and school playground for outside play.

There are currently 12 children aged from four to 10 years on roll. The setting has systems in place to support children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The after school club employs three members of staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years and play work qualification and two are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because staff promote and support most aspects of children's health. Children have a good awareness of the importance of personal hygiene and independently wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Pump soap and disposable paper towels are used and this helps avoid cross contamination. Arrangements for first aid and administering medication meet requirements and protect children. The accident records include good detail about the exact location of injuries and any action taken. The setting has a written sick child policy, which means staff can act in the children's best interest when they are ill as well as protecting others from illness and infection.

Children are beginning to learn about the importance of healthy eating as they design their own posters to promote healthy eating and discuss healthy foods with staff during activities. However, this is not extended to actively encourage children to make healthy choices at snack times. Children enjoy some reasonably nutritious snacks, and fresh fruit is always made available. Planned snack items include crumpets, crackers with cheese spread and fruit. On the day of inspection children were enjoying white bread with a choice of toppings of chocolate spread, jam, or margarine, accompanied by a choice of biscuit and chopped apple. However, the staff do not actively promote the healthy options, and therefore children do not fully consider the importance of making healthy choices. Children have independent access to drinks of dilute squash and water throughout their time in the provision. Staff seek information regarding children's health and dietary needs and these are complied with. Relevant health and hygiene guidelines are followed when preparing children's snacks and staff have attended food hygiene training for the safe handling of food.

Children enjoy physical exercise and learn about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle as they join in free play and organised activities. Children particularly enjoy obstacle courses that they help to design using cones, hoops, skipping ropes and balls. They also enjoy quieter activities which involve physical skill and coordination, such as art and craft, construction and various board games.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and welcoming environment and the space is organised effectively to allow them the freedom to make safe choices and independently access opportunities. They have safe access to equipment and age appropriate resources, which conform to safety standards and are well maintained, although, provision for children who wish to rest and relax is limited. The children's contribution to their own provision is greatly valued by staff and their artwork and creativity is attractively displayed within the setting. All safety equipment is in place, and daily risk assessments are successful in identifying and minimising all potential hazards to children. There are good security systems in place to protect children and staff monitor access to and from the provision. These ensure children cannot leave the premises unsupervised and there can be no unauthorised access to children.

Staff are vigilant and supervise children well. They follow clear procedures when walking children to the setting and deployment is effective to keep children safe. Staff actively promote children's awareness of road safety and have contacted external agencies for additional resources, such as reflective transfers and activity sheets and games. There are clear procedures in place in the event of a child not being collected or lost. Staff constantly raise children's awareness of how to keep themselves safe through gentle reminders and explanation. Children know the procedure for evacuation in an emergency and this is practised regularly with staff. This ensures they know how to vacate the premises quickly and safely in an emergency and are learning to take some responsibility for their own well-being.

Staff have a good awareness of possible signs and symptoms of abuse and of their responsibility to report such concerns, in line with local authority procedures, to protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are extremely well settled, relaxed and confident in the setting. They clearly enjoy the time they spend at the club and are enthusiastic and self-assured in its welcoming environment. They value this time at the end of the school day where they can participate in activities of their choice. The staff are effective in their approach to consultation with children to ensure they provide interesting, challenging and stimulating activities which appeal to their interests. Activities are entirely based around this approach to ensure the experiences provided are meaningful and enjoyable.

There is a good range of well maintained resources, which are used well to interest children and develop their learning. Many children choose to play board games both with their peers and staff. These involve children using such skills as matching, counting, sharing, taking turns and generally cooperating with one another. Children use their imaginations well during art and craft activities and explore a range of different materials and techniques, such as ripping paper to create different desired effects. Staff are skilful at knowing when to intervene to enhance children's play experiences and when to allow them the freedom to sit, relax and chat with friends. Staff regularly evaluate the activities they provide to ensure they appeal to the children and offer good levels of challenge to promote their well-being and development.

Good relationships are clearly evident and staff are skilled at taking the time to listen and acknowledge children. Staff encourage a sense of belonging by displaying children's creativity in its many forms around the room. Children show a great sense of pride in their achievements and enjoy showing the inspector their creations. This approach helps build upon children's existing good levels of self-esteem, enthusiasm and confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are well catered for. They benefit from activities that help them to consider and value diversity, learning more about the world around them. For example, they learn through planned activities centred on festivals,

such as Chinese New Year where they design and make their own Chinese lanterns. Staff are fully committed to inclusion and ensure that all children are included in the provision. They make sure that activities are repeated on different days to allow all children the opportunity to participate, regardless of their patterns of attendance. Children with learning difficulties are well supported and able to participate fully in the life of the setting and staff adapt their practice as necessary to enable this to happen.

Children behave well and have a good understanding of right and wrong. They cooperate well and are thoughtful, considerate and well mannered. They show care and concern for one another and many of the older children enjoy assisting the younger ones during group games. Relationships between staff and children are mutually respectful and staff act as good role models for the children. All staff are consistent in their approach to behaviour management. They use positive strategies to encourage good behaviour and praise and encourage children frequently, which builds their self-esteem.

Parents are welcomed into the club by friendly, approachable staff who give them regular verbal feedback about their child's time at the club. They are provided with clear information about the setting and its policies and procedures in the form of a welcome pack, and regular newsletters keep them up to date with any changes. Child registration forms ensure all personal information is obtained from parents to enable appropriate care to be given and ensure children's individual needs are well catered for.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by staff who have a good grasp of the play work principles. They work well together as a team and are clear about their individual roles and responsibilities, which means that children are well cared for. The setting is organised effectively to allow the children to initiate their own play and learning, and access a good range of opportunities. This encourages their independence and allows them to self-select experiences that both interest and challenge them.

Required adult to child ratios are met and provide good levels of care and support, enabling all children to participate in the activities on offer. In response, children are happy, settled and confident within the setting.

All of the required documentation is in place, it is well organised and includes good detail. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the 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 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 choice of healthy snacks available and encourage children to make healthy choices
- improve the provision for children who wish to rest and relax and ensure there is appropriate furniture for this purpose.

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