

Cool Kidz

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY340294
Inspection date	23 March 2007
Inspector	Maura Pigram
Setting Address	Woodlands Infant School, Alban Crescent, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, WD6 5JF
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Registered person	Cool Kidz
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?

Cool Kidz after school club opened in 2006 and operates from Woodlands Infant School in Borehamwood. The club has access to a designated classroom, the canteen, library and the hall. They also have use of the infant playground. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 15:00 to 18:00 term time only. There are currently 32 children aged from four to under five years on roll. Children can attend up to the age of 11 years. Children come from Woodlands Primary school and other local primary schools. The club supports children with learning difficulties and supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs three members of staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a clear understanding of good health and hygiene as they participate in daily routines to maintain this. Children routinely wash their hands prior to having their snack. Younger children are reminded to do this after they have been to the toilet. Consequently, children develop sound personal hygiene habits. They are protected from cross-infection because there is a clear policy in place regarding exclusion of children who have a contagious illness. Measures such as cleaning surfaces with anti-bacterial spray ensure children are further protected against cross-infection.

Children have access to water throughout the day. They are encouraged to develop healthy eating by making independent choices about their snacks. They enjoy making their own sandwiches. However, they prefer choosing jams and chocolate spread rather than a healthy option. As a result, children do not always have a healthy and nutritious snack. Children who require medical attention or become ill are well cared for as there are clear procedures in place. All staff have completed appropriate first aid training. This means that children's health, if they have an accident, is protected.

Children can rest or be active according to their needs. There are large cushions in a quiet area where children can relax or they can take part in a broad range of physical activities. The children use a wide range of large and small equipment safely both indoors and outdoors. They experience various ball games, riding scooters, jumping and running. Consequently, children develop their physical skills and a positive attitude towards physical exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. Children have easy access to a wide range of suitable equipment and activities to promote children's development in all areas. Resources are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards. As a result, children can play safely and freely. Effective procedures ensure that accidental injury is minimised. Equipment and toys, for example, are stored safely. In addition, there is a robust system in place to ensure they are well maintained and suitable for the children. An emergency evacuation procedure is in place which is practised with the children. Staff are deployed to supervise children at all times to ensure their safety. The arrival and departure of children is well managed and orderly. Parents and carers sign their children out of the club. This means that staff are aware of the whereabouts of the children at all times. Children regularly practise the evacuation procedure so that they know what to do in an emergency. This means that children's safety is effectively promoted.

Use of the playground is well managed so that children are effectively safeguarded. Children are aware of the areas they are able to use and the vigilant staff ensure children are within sight at all times. Consequently, children are able to take risks while being appropriately supervised. Staff talk regularly to the children about safety topics such as awareness of strangers. As a result, children develop a good awareness of how to keep themselves safe. They are further protected from harm because the staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are confident and independent. They enjoy their time at the after school club because their independence is fostered. They freely choose where to play and what activities to become involved with. As a result, they take part in a broad range of planned and spontaneous activities. These incorporate their interests and development. Drama, for example, is well supported. Some children recently created a 'play' and performed this to the staff and their peers. An attractive display shows artefacts and props which the children made and used during their performance. This means that children are given ample opportunities to express their creativity and their self-esteem is very well fostered.

In addition, the children's voice is heard. Adults listen to the children's ideas and respond to them with interest. The children are able to create a wish list of activities and resources. This is on display and discussed regularly. This means that children's views are valued. Outdoor play is very well supported with staff joining in activities as required. Scooters, for example, are a new addition. Staff and children excitingly assemble these enabling the children to have great fun in the designated wheeled toy area. Younger children enjoy using their imaginations when playing with dinosaurs, cars and sand. Children excitingly explore modelling sand, they concentrate for long periods of time engrossed in creating models. Children share the equipment very well as the staff skilfully organise activities to promote sharing and taking turns. Consequently, children relate to each other, make friends and are helpful to each other.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and included. They feel a sense of belonging and ownership of the club because they are fully involved and included in decisions at all times. This means that they are treated with respect by the staff. They regularly take part in meaningful activities and have easy access to resources which help value diversity and an understanding of different cultural and religious festivals. Recently they enjoyed making special gifts for Mothers day and they made masks to celebrate Chinese New Year. Children who speak English as an additional language are particularly well supported. Labels, for example are used so that children can see different formats of the same word. In addition, staff ensure suitable computer games are available in English and in languages the children use at home. This helps the children to develop a positive understanding of diversity and the wider world.

Staff provide good role models to the children, by being calm and polite. Praise is given freely to children and they have clear boundaries. Children are included in all decisions regarding acceptable behaviour. Therefore, they know what is expected of them. They are kind, considerate and thoughtful to each other. They are encouraged to be well mannered, share and take turns, and are included in the setting of boundaries therefore they know what is expected of them. Any issues of inappropriate behaviour are managed consistently and appropriate strategies used appropriate to the children's age and stage of development.

Staff are committed to provided an inclusive practice and use their experience from their playgroup and nursery roles to ensure all children can fully participate. Consequently, all children develop a sense of self worth. Children benefit from the close partnership with parents and carers that the club has formed. They speak highly about the club and the committed staff. Parents are given a welcome leaflet explaining policies and procedures, this ensures they are informed about the care provided. Newsletters are regularly produced informing parents of the

activities the children have enjoyed. Parents are aware of the procedures to follow if they have any concerns regarding the welfare of the children. The system for any complaint recording complies with the requirements of the National Standards.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's well-being is supported because the experienced staff have a clear sense of purpose. It is well organised and managed by staff who are also employed within the school. They have a clear understanding of child development and the needs of children attending an after school club. As a result, they know the children very well and activities are arranged to suit the format of the club. There is a clear recruitment and vetting procedure. This means that children are well protected. The staff have close relationships with key members of teaching staff. This means that staff have a high regard for the children in their care and communications regarding the needs of the children can effectively take place. Consequently, children feel secure and confident and there is a continuity of care.

The children have access to a well organised base room which appeals to them. Outdoor play is encouraged and well supported. In both areas there is a wide range of stimulating play opportunities which are easily available. Policies and procedures work well in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. Staff are in the process of developing a portfolio containing the required documentation. This means that parents, staff and children will be able to make easy reference to the policies and procedures. Overall the needs of all the children attending are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

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. 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 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):

- ensure food and snacks are healthy and nutritious.

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