

Castle Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY314603
Inspection date	19 June 2007
Inspector	Claire Sheldrake
Setting Address	Highlands Lane, Locking Castle, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset, BS24 7DX
Telephone number	01934 427427
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Registered person	Castle Kids Club
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?

The Castle Kids Club opened in early 2006. It operates from The Campus in Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset. Children have access to a conference room, hall, Sports hall, computer suite, art and craft room, food technology room and toilet facilities on both floors. Children have access to a fully enclosed outdoor area which includes adventure play equipment.

The out of school club is registered for a maximum of 24 children. At present there are 18 children, aged between four and eight years old, on roll. The out of school club also cares for children over eight years old. The group runs from 15:15 till 18:00 every day, term time only.

The out-of-school club employs three members of staff to work directly with the children; two of these have appropriate level 3 early years qualifications and above.

The staff are supported by the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children manage their own hygiene needs effectively. They take themselves to the bathroom and routinely, wash their hands before preparing and eating their snacks.

Children are introduced, and encouraged to choose healthy eating options. They have a selection of whole-wheat cereals and low fat milk and toast with savoury spreads. A large bowl of fruit is set out on the table for children to help themselves. Children have drinks readily available and low sugar squash is used in a very diluted form.

Staff follow good health and hygiene procedures to promote children's health. There is always a trained first aider on the premises, and medication and first aid kits are carried around in a locked box with the manager.

Documentation to support children's health such as accident, medication records and emergency consent are in place.

Children increase their understanding about healthy living through daily opportunities for physical exercise. The outside area encourages children to climb, balance and run around. The school halls are used for indoor sports and games.

Children are developing their use of small tools and equipment. For example the Hama beads in room three, and managing small pieces, in the board game of Tumbling monkeys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are looked after in a modern, clean and bright environment, which is housed within the community centre. It is on the same site as the school, and children have access to a variety of classrooms, which include an art room, food technology room and a computer suite.

Children are safely escorted from their classrooms to the club by members of staff, and the register is taken to ensure all the expected children have arrived.

Children use a range of suitable equipment, which appears to be in good working order. Outside play equipment is permanently attached to the ground, and the surface is cushioned to reduce accidents and injuries to children.

Children are learning about managing their own safety. For example in the food technology room there are signs to remind children about handling sharp knives, and not to touch the cookers in case they are hot.

Children are protected from fire. Regular drills are carried out twice a term to remind children about the evacuation procedures, and this information is recorded, and evaluated for future practices.

Children are kept in a safe and secure environment. Visitors are asked to sign in at the main community centre reception, and are met by staff before entering the club. Security key card

passes are carried by staff to access different areas of the building. This ensures that children can not leave the area unsupervised or have access to areas used by members of the public.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and protected. Staff are confident in recognising and dealing with issues around child protection, and documentation is in place to support this.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive happy and lively, and are greeted and welcomed by staff. They settle quickly and begin the task of preparing snacks and drinks for everyone. Staff inform children about the activities for the day, and the choices that are on offer. For example the computer suite, or room three, set up with crafts and games.

Children are confident and familiar with the routine, and eagerly help spread toast and pour drinks before enjoying the social aspect of eating around the large table. The children talk away to each other, discussing their day at school, and they describe what they like to do whilst they are at the club. This mostly includes the outside area and the food.

Children respond well to the adults and listen, and respond to their name at registration. The children are kind, and responsive to each other, they help solve each others problems when using the computers. Staff are close at hand to monitor children using the internet, and to offer support as they use email and games.

In room three the children select their own activities from the toy cupboard. Craft activities are already set up and the children enjoy placing the Hama beads onto small boards in colourful patterns and designs. Children are focused and involved, they sit and play in small groups with board games, dressing up and staff help the children build a den.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are able to make personal choices about the activities they are involved in. They share, take turns and play cooperatively. They enjoy dressing up and role play games, and are not made to feel uncomfortable about their choices.

Children are aware of their society and the world around them. There are posters displayed, and toys borrowed from the toy library, which represent positive images of equal opportunities.

Children are all encouraged to take part in the session, and activities can be adapted for all children. The children are proud of their club, and feel that they belong. They have developed their own rules board which is displayed in the food technology room.

Children generally behave well, however sometimes the behaviour becomes challenging. This is mainly when children lose direction, or are having to wait for rooms to be available. Staff respond calmly to this, and remind the children of their agreement, which is three warnings, and then they are asked to take time out.

The children are learning good life skills and are taking responsibility for themselves. At snack time, they prepare their own food, clear away and wash and dry their own plates, cups and cutlery.

Partnerships with parents have been well developed. Staff are friendly and approachable. Parents take time to find out about their child's day when they collect their child, and good relationships are being formed.

Documentation has been developed to support this partnership, however the policy for protecting children from bullying is very brief.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The club is organised to provide a safe environment for children to play after school hours. It is run from a number of rooms within the campus, to offer children a variety of exciting and challenging activities.

The staff are well established and are aware of their roles within the team. There are at least two members of staff on the premises at all times, and over half of them hold early years qualifications. Staff can easily contact more support in an emergency, for example the centre manager, through the hand held radio system.

The register is taken during the session and this identifies the number of children attending under the age of eight to ensure adequate ratios are maintained.

Staff are all suitability checked and a staff structure is in place to provide cover in the event of staff absence.

Current staff are involved in the staff review and development procedure, and an appraisal system is in place. This supports those who are already employed, however an induction procedure is not in place to support any new staff.

Staff keep children's records and consent forms in a locked box for confidentiality and security purposes. This box is taken from room to room, as it contains contact details for parents, so that they can be contacted in an emergency.

The club meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the previous inspection where seven actions had been set, the club has given good attention to effectively address these issues.

There are new and rigorous procedures in place to ensure that staff are suitably qualified and vetted before they work with children. This is all kept in a staff file.

The registration system has been improved. It now includes details of staff on duty, and the children present. It lists the hours that both are in attendance.

To ensure children's health is protected, any medication is now carried with the staff in a lockable filing box.

To continue to minimise any risks to children a daily risk assessment is now carried out and it identifies any action that needs to be taken. This is then followed up by senior staff or campus caretakers.

Staff are now trained in first aid. They are able to deal with any accidents, or incidents to children within the club. A qualified first aider is on the premises at all times.

The medication procedure and documentation has been developed. It now includes written permission from parents to administer medication to children whilst they are at the club.

A record of communication has now been set up to ensure that Ofsted is made aware of any changes to the club's registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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):

- develop documentation to include more information about bullying and an induction procedure for new staff members.

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