

Class of Their Own

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY241333
Inspection date	05 April 2007
Inspector	Stacey Sangster
Setting Address	Davigdor Infant School, Somerhill Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 1RG
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Registered person	Class Of Their Own Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

A Class of Their Own, Davigdor, holiday playscheme is situated in a local school in the Somerhill area of Hove. It is registered for 40 children aged from four years to under eight, however, children over the age of eight years may attend. The playscheme is open Monday to Friday during the school holidays. Staff are suitably qualified and some have qualified teacher status. The playscheme has access to a large, bright hall, playground and a large school playing field. Children attending are representative of the local community.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Most of the hygiene practices in place help to promote children's health. The setting do not offer care to children who are infectious and have appropriate procedures in to protect others if children become ill while attending. Usual routines include hand washing before meals and after using the toilet, although this is not always monitored sufficiently by staff to ensure it is consistent.

There are satisfactory arrangements for first aid. Rotas are arranged to ensure that at least one member of staff who is qualified in first aid is on duty at every session. Arrangements for the administration of medication are robust and ensure that children receive the correct dose at the time specified by parents.

Overall the majority of the area used by children are clean and well maintained. Children and staff help to tidy away and the premises are cleaned daily. Insufficient checks on the toilet areas are carried out during sessions and this can result in children using facilities which towards the end of the day are unhygienic.

Children are provided with snacks at the setting and bring a packed lunch. They enjoy healthy foods such as fruit, pop corn, toast or rice cakes. Children help themselves, for example, from communal bowls of raisins and sit together on the floor to eat these. Parents are advised not to send unhealthy lunches and to avoid perishable foods such as cheeses, yogurts, milk drinks etc as the setting has no refrigeration facilities.

Food is stored in a shaded part of the building and children are not permitted to help themselves to items after lunch, which prevents them from accessing foods which are no longer fresh. Children benefit because the setting has clear and detailed policies relating to food and hygiene. These inform the parents and guide the staff in relation to practices which support their good health and diet. Children's individual dietary and health needs are recorded before they attend the setting and there is a simple system in place to ensure all staff are aware of essential information such as allergies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are a school building and as such provide a well maintained, child friendly and suitable building and grounds in which children can play safely. Children are permitted to move around the building freely and are instructed as to the areas that they are permitted to enter. They use the large sports hall, the majority of the outside play areas and access the toilets in the corridor of the entrance to the school.

Head counts take place at the beginning of the session and then at whole group times such as lunch time and a clear record is kept of the number of children on the premises at any one time. Children are free to move around the designated areas as they wish and are required to tell staff if they leave the hall to use the toilets. Children were observed not to always do this and on occasion to linger in the entrance hall unsupervised without staff being aware. In order to meet fire safety requirements the main entrance door is not locked from inside. Taller children can reach the high handle as such there is a risk that children could leave the setting without the knowledge of staff. Staff confirm, to date, this has never occurred.

Fire drills are practised regularly. Emergency fire exit signs however lead to some fire exits which are kept locked in the school holidays. These are in areas which are close to, but not part of the areas available to the children at the club and staff and management are unclear if these should be open or not and have agreed to check this immediately.

Equipment is of good quality, is well maintained and is checked for safety and suitability in relation to the ages and understanding of the children using it. Staff provide children with good role models when using and moving equipment, consequently children understand how to do this safely. Gentle reminders are given in relation to behaviour which is safe, such as not

running inside and looking where they are going. Circle times at registration in the mornings are used to remind children of key safety points such as asking to use the toilets and what to do if there is an emergency.

Clear and comprehensive procedures are in place to guide staff in the event that they have concerns about the welfare of a child in their care. A written child protection policy is accessible at every session and a number of staff have received training in relation to this subject. Staff are clear about who they should report concerns to and demonstrate sound knowledge of the procedures to follow. The setting are committed to the protection of children as their first priority and as such would deal with any concerns promptly.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have fun in this setting. The atmosphere is relaxed and children are happy and engage in a wide range of activities. They enjoy the freedom to choose the activities that interest them and staff are skilled at motivating children to join in and keep occupied. Children are able to influence the play environment by suggesting games or activities and staff are enthusiastic about encouraging this and facilitating their ideas.

Although groups are large and staff do not work with key groups, children and staff get to know each other well. Staff work closely with children and chat to them, helping new children to feel welcome and regular children to feel valued. Positive relationships are formed. Children's opinions are valued and they are encouraged to take an active part in the club. Children's work is displayed and work produced as a collaborative effort is raffled at the end of the session, with names drawn from a hat to see who 'wins' the chance to take the end product home.

The daily routine is well balanced and provides a basic framework with key parts of the day, such as registration, lunch and snacks, organised at set times. Home times are staggered with sessions finishing at 15:30 or 17:30. At these times children are brought together and play active games, with staff participating fully.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The setting is committed to providing a club which promotes inclusion. Children with special needs are integrated fully and are very well supported. One to one support is available if required. All children are encouraged to take part in activities and the staff are able to adapt games and play arrangements to enable all children to take a full and active part in the programme of events.

There is a comprehensive, well written and clear policy to inform the parents and guide the staff in relation to both equal opportunities and special needs. The setting actively promotes equality of opportunity and there are good procedures for recording children's individual needs, which staff make use of to ensure each child's specific care needs are met.

Behaviour in this setting is very good. Children are involved in devising and agreeing a set of rules and if asked most children have a clear understanding of what these are and why they are in place. Rules centre around being kind and behaving in ways that keep themselves and other safe. Because children are well occupied and supported by good quality adult interaction

they have little opportunity to become bored and this helps to maintain the high levels of positive behaviour.

The partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. Parents can place their children for regular sessions or just a few, so the relationships that are built up with staff can vary in relation to the patterns of attendance. A wide range of written information is available to parents in the form of policies and notices. Verbal feedback at the end of the session tends to be informal and basic unless parents indicate that they would like specific information or there is an issue that needs to be discussed. The setting have areas within the school building, where they can offer parents a private place to discuss any concerns or issues that arise if they need to.

Parents are happy with the care that the setting provides and it is a popular service with a large number of families using the club during every school holiday.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting are staffed by group of experienced childcare staff and all have undertaken the relevant checking process to confirm their suitability.

Staff recruitment policies are detailed and comprehensive. The induction of new staff is thorough in most cases, although lacks the same depth when staff move from one role to another, such as when promoted to supervisor. As a result the new supervisor is not fully conversant with all of the systems in place for record keeping - for example she was not aware of the staff signing in and out sheet and consequently this was not being used. Other systems are in place that enable the management to identify who is working which shifts and as such it meets the requirements, but this omission highlights a gap in the induction. Most of the rest of the documentation is very detailed and is well maintained. Some accident records are still not being countersigned by parents and this calls into question whether parents have been informed of these.

The organisation of the play areas meets the children's needs, providing a spacious and well organised play space. The deployment of staff is satisfactory to ensure that children receive good levels of support when participating in activities and setting up games.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The setting has made some progress with the recommendation raised in the last inspection but has not met it in full. Some entries of the accident book are still not signed by parents and this remains an area which the setting must focus on improving.

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):

- improve hygiene in relation to toilets and consistency of hand washing
- ensure that children are unable to leave the premises undetected
- ensure that the arrangements for fire meet with the FSO in relation to locked fire doors
- ensure that the PIC has a sound knowledge of the documentation relating to the setting

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