

Magpies West

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY345660
Inspection date	16 May 2007
Inspector	Jill Milton
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Registered person	Magpies Kidlington LTD
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Magpies West is run by the private provider Magpies Kidlington Limited. This setting opened in February 2007 and operates from rooms within West Kidlington Primary School, Oxfordshire. Children also have the use of the school playground and field for supervised outdoor play. A maximum of 16 children under eight years may attend the setting at any one time and children over eight years are also accepted. There are currently 25 children on roll. The club is open each weekday from 15:15 to 18:15 during term time. The company employs several staff who have a suitable range of qualifications between the team.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children eat well at the end of the school day when they come to the club. They have a tempting range of snacks which include healthy choices like salad and fresh fruit. A table is attractively set out with a chequered cloth and children are expected to sit and eat together, making it a sociable time of relaxation at the end of a busy school day. Children help themselves to large jugs of diluted fruit squash and they readily obtain more drinks after energetic play outdoors.

The staff work well with parents to ensure they share information about allergies or religious observances so that they make allowances for children's particular dietary needs.

Children spend regular times outdoors making good use of the school facilities. They enjoy using the challenging climbing equipment and show confidence and strength in balancing, climbing and stretching. Staff provide timely support to games that encourage hand-to-eye co-ordination, for example when a small group play with a large frisbee. If children have the occasional accident during club times the staff are well prepared to deal with the situation. They offer comfort and first aid, ensuring that they inform parents of any incidents at the end of the day. Staff are aware of when their first aid training requires renewal and they have a useful selection of guidance to hand, for example relating to infectious illnesses. Children play in a clean environment and they know the routine for regular hand washing before eating. Staff work well to reduce the risk of cross infection by checking the toilets are clean and by following sensible procedures during the preparation of food.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have sufficient space to play and especially enjoy the wide open area outdoors. The indoor rooms are light and staff make them welcoming by displaying posters with the club name and colourful examples of children's art work. Children can access bathroom facilities independently and a small kitchen area enables staff to prepare a nourishing range of hot and cold snacks to refresh the children. There are currently a basic range of resources for play which the children appear to enjoy. There is some low level storage available though many items are in a cupboard only accessed by the adults. Whilst the children are familiar with the games available and request their favourites the display of resources does not enable them to have very much independence in their play. On some days the children's own belongings stay in a pile on the floor.

Children play safely at the club since staff supervise them appropriately and take steps to reduce potential hazards. The staff monitor who is present at the club and encourage parents to sign children out at home time. Staff are aware of who is collecting a child and they have the necessary procedures in place should a child not be collected or is lost. There are some weaknesses linked to the area of fire safety, for example the lack of clear fire exit signs and readiness of a fire blanket for use in an emergency.

The staff working with the children have a sound understanding of the area of child protection. They are aware through recent training of the indicators that would cause them concern for a child's welfare and they recognise their responsibility to act in order to protect a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled at the club where they benefit from the attention of the caring staff. The adults show an interest in the children by asking about their school day and sharing conversations with them. The children are keen to take part in the main art activity of the day and they demonstrate their creative abilities when making paper models. The staff demonstrate how they value the children's efforts by displaying their art work on the walls of the main club room. Children can choose whether to take part in the main activity and if not they select from a basic selection that includes boxed games, dressing-up clothes or books.

The children receive support from the staff whilst they play and timely intervention by the adults renews interest in a game. This helps to draw children in, for example a throwing and catching activity or a play station game. Guessing games based on words and descriptions are popular with the children. Whilst the range of options is satisfactory for the number of children currently attending the club the staff are aware of the need to build up the range of choices as the club develops.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel at home in the setting since they are familiar with the routine and the premises. They know that staff are approachable and will try to meet their requests for activities. The staff are aware of different family circumstances so that they can take care of the children. This includes an understanding by the staff that some children have particular learning difficulties or disabilities and the setting operates a positive policy of inclusion to welcome children.

Whilst at the club the children demonstrate politeness and good behaviour. They play co-operatively sharing games or happily work alongside each other at art projects. Children of different ages spend a sociable time together. Staff understanding of managing children's behaviour is reinforced by a clear policy that includes a detailed section on how to deal with any bullying that may occur. The staff are developing good relationships with parents. They share information about the club to provide parents with reassurance of the care on offer, for example displaying staff qualifications or sharing club policies. When parents collect children there is a friendly rapport with the staff and supportive conversations about child care issues in general.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The staff are working well together as a team to develop this new club. The adults on duty each day are part of a larger team and there is access to advice and support from more senior staff through mobile telephone contact. The company carry out appropriate steps for the recruitment and induction of new staff and they ensure references and checks take place to show that adults are suitable to work with children. There is a positive attitude towards professional development amongst the staff and they are all involved in on-going training to increase their skills and knowledge. The team have a wide range of experience of caring for children of different ages and in different settings. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

There is a clear set of policies linked to the National Standards to support the work of the staff in the club. This provides them with guidance on many day-to-day issues with only occasional lapses, such as not recording when fire evacuation takes place. Club staff are working closely with the school with the aim of developing and building up the attendance to the provision. Staff are aware of the range of information they need to keep about children in order to care for them appropriately. However the current storage arrangements of some documents is not ideal for maintaining confidentiality of personal information.

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 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):

- ensure fire exits are clearly labelled and the fire blanket correctly fitted ready for use
- ensure documentation is stored securely to maintain confidentiality of personal information
- improve the storage of children's own belongings and make more resources accessible to them

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