

Scallywags Kids Group

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	254492
Inspection date	12 June 2007
Inspector	Permjit Tanda
Setting Address	Pinfold Street JMI School, Pinfold Street Extension, Darlaston, Walsall, West Midlands, WS10 8PU
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Registered person	Scallywags Kids Management Committee
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?

Sallywags Kids Group opened in 1998. It operates from a mobile classroom at Pinfold Street School, Darlaston, a suburb of Walsall. A maximum of 16 children may attend the group at any one time. The group is open each weekday from 08:00 to 09:00 and 15:30 to 18:00 during the school term. Children share access to an outdoor play area.

There are currently 49 children aged from 5 to under 8 years on roll. The settings admission policy allows children up to the age of 11 years to attend. The club is open to children who attend the school. There are effective systems in place to support children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language. Two staff work directly with the children and both hold a recognised early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because staff follow current and appropriate health and hygiene guidelines and procedures. They adopt adequate hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infection, for

example, cleaning tables before and after snacks. Areas used by the children are kept suitably clean through staff checking and cleaning the premises on arrival. Children understand the importance of good personal hygiene through established routines, for example, the whole group together go to wash their hands prior to eating their snack and understand the importance of washing their hands after using the toilet. Both permanent staff hold a current first aid certificate and therefore are able to administer first aid if required. A first aid box is easily accessible together with the required documentation for recording accidents and medication.

Children are well hydrated throughout the session because water is made readily available, for example, on arrival a child quickly helps himself to the bottle of water and pours a drink. Children after school have a light snack consisting mainly of toast, biscuits, chocolate and ice cream. Breakfast options include a range of cereals. Many of the foods offered are high in sugar, for example, only chocolate spread is available as a topping for toast and chocolate cereals are a favourite with the children. This limits the opportunity for children to make healthy choices.

Children have regular opportunities to access the school playground as a whole group and a smaller enclosed area is made readily available throughout the session and therefore children can choose to play outdoors when they wish. However, due to the small range of resources they do not always show a good interest in using the area and have few opportunities to increase their physical skills through a varied range of resources.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment is well organised to meet the needs of children and they use toys and resources which are appropriate and safe. Staff give good consideration to the safe arrival of children at the club. However, in some areas reasonable steps have not been taken to minimise hazards, for example, electric sockets are not covered, fireguards are not securely fitted to the wall and children are not always adequately supervised outdoors. These compromise the children's safety. Satisfactory fire precautions are taken and there is a clearly defined procedure for emergency evacuation understood by staff. Children learn to keep themselves safe, for example, they know that they must not leave the building without a member of staff when they wish to use the toilets in the main school and are also involved in regular fire drills.

Children's welfare is safeguarded well because staff maintain the required procedures and documents. They have a good knowledge of child protection issues and how to safeguard children in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from an organised space they are familiar with and this contributes to their confidence and sense of belonging at the club. They arrive happy and eager to participate. Children enjoy being with familiar adults and develop close relationships with their peers and staff. Children easily chat about their day at school to each other and adults.

Children quickly settle into activities on arrival, for example, one child switches on the television and sits comfortably on the sofa; others play with the dolls in the domestic area, whilst another child sits to complete school work. This relaxed and flexible approach means children are settled and at ease in the environment. Children benefit from a suitable range of activities and play materials and show appropriate levels of involvement in their play. Children increase their

creativity through a selection of arts and crafts activities and many enjoy imaginative play and table top activities. Staff support, guide children and show an interest in what the children say and do. This helps children initiate their own play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are appropriately met because staff make the time to get to know the children through spending much of their time with them. Children are treated with equal concern and all children have access to all resources and activities available. They have regular opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them through planned activities such as celebrating Easter, Christmas, Diwali and Chinese New Year throughout the year. Children freely talk about difference and topics covered at school are continued through discussion at the club. Staff are able to meet the needs of children with special needs through adapting activities and the environment.

Children's are well behaved and have a clear understanding of what is expected of them, for example, children know the rules and the consequences of their behaviour. Children work well together and benefit from set consistent boundaries which helps them learn to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own behaviour.

Parents are kept well informed about the club through a parent handbook and a notice board. This includes access to the setting policies and procedures. Parents are made welcome and staff chat freely to them about their child. This contributes to the children's well-being in the club.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at ease in an environment where they increase their confidence through self-selecting activities in a well organised space. Adults spend much of their time working with the children they take an interest in what the children do and say and build on their interest well. Children are cared for by suitably qualified staff that are well motivated and enjoy interacting with the children.

All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and regularly reviewed. Staff meet informally to assess the running of the setting, their performance and to identify areas for improvement. The staff team have been established for some time and there is an effective system in place to cover absence. However, there is not a formal system in place for recruitment and staff records for casual staff do not include details of recruitment, qualifications or training. This potentially compromises children's safety. There is a commitment from the staff team to improvement and development of the club through training opportunities. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection two actions were raised to improve the care and safety of children. Both have been successfully addressed. The staff have completed an appropriate training course

and hold a level 3 qualification in childcare. The children's hours of attendance is recorded daily in the register and in addition parent's sign their children out on collection.

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 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):

- further develop breakfast and snack menu to include healthy options
- provide a varied range of resources to help promote the children's physical skills
- conduct a thorough risk assessment and take reasonable steps to ensure hazards to the children on the premises, both inside and outside, are minimised
- formalise a recruitment procedure and ensure all individual staff records include information about recruitment, training and qualifications.

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