

Kidzone

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	250066
Inspection date	23 May 2007
Inspector	Diane Ashplant
Setting Address	St Margarets Primary School, Richmond Road, Olton, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 7RR
Telephone number	0121 706 5020
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Registered person	St Margarets Voluntary 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kidzone out of school club opened in 2000 and is managed by the Voluntary Management Committee. It operates from St Margaret's Primary School, which is situated in Olton near Solihull. The children have use of a large classroom within the school which includes kitchen facilities and also the adjoining computer room. The children have access to the fully enclosed school playground and fields for outside play. The club is open every week day during school term time and sessions are from 08.00 to 09.00 and from 15.30 to 18.00.

The club is registered to care for a maximum of 32 children at any one time and there are currently 65 children from three to 11 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

There are currently four members of staff who work with the children of whom half hold an appropriate child care qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well promoted through regular opportunities for physical play both inside and out. Children benefit from frequent play sessions in the fresh air where they are able to use a variety of equipment to promote physical skills such as skipping ropes and balls. They also enjoy games such as cricket and have fun exercising to music on the dance mat. Regular cleaning routines maintain a healthy and hygienic environment and children understand the importance of carrying out regular practices to promote their health such as hand-washing and disposing of litter. Children are very aware of the importance of self-care as they, for example, protect themselves from the sun by putting on hats and suncream and independently select the shade for certain activities. Half the staff hold first aid certificates which ensures they know how to act in the event of children having an accident or feeling unwell. There are sound procedures in place for the recording of accidents and medication and these are well maintained.

Children have a range of fruit and other snacks to promote their health and the club has their own large fridge for storage. Children are learning about the importance of food as they enjoy activities such as filling their own pitta breads or making fresh fruit salad. Children have independent access to drinks of squash and water at all times and are aware of the importance of keeping hydrated, particularly in hot weather. Staff are fully aware of any dietary needs which are recorded and discussed carefully with parents so they know how to act to ensure children's health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children at the club have use of rooms which are part of a child-orientated environment and with which they are familiar. Consequently, they move confidently around and also have easy access to the school playground and fields. Staff have established a good balance between supervising the children to ensure their safety and allowing appropriate independence for the older ones. For example, they bring themselves to the club and are able to access different areas such as the woods and sit in trees as staff regularly remind them of the guidelines and their responsibility for their own safety. Staff are aware of potential dangers such as when parents and unknown adults collect children from other clubs and enter through the playground. Therefore they place themselves appropriately at the gate to monitor arrival and departure. Staff are familiar with all polices for keeping children safe such as safe collection and they carry out regular fire evacuation drills so the children know how to act promptly and appropriately in the event of danger. Staff are aware of what children are doing as they keep visually alert at all times. The manager conducts a daily risk assessment to ensure the safety of all areas used by children so that most potential hazards are minimised. Children have use of a wide range of resources which are chosen with regard to safety and suitability and are well organised and maintained.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the staff's understanding of their role and responsibilities as regards child protection and how to pass on concerns appropriately. There is a full and up to date policy which is shared effectively with parents and staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enter happily into the club where they know the staff well and are able to relax and unwind after school as staff recognise the importance of providing a fun time. Consequently, children are given lots of choice about what they want to do and are able to select their own occupations, with staff comfortably interacting and engaging with them. Children respect the routine of each session where there is a planned weekly programme to ensure there is balance and variety to keep children engaged and interested. Topic-based activities provide regular creative sessions such as designing their own figures for a puppet show and these are set up both inside and out to provide a different environment for children to enjoy. Within the daily routine children have opportunities for free and more structured play and their suggestions are sought and acted upon so they feel involved in the organisation of their club. Older children are given independence and use their imagination as they play games and make dens in the woods or spend time in the computer room. Staff engage well with the children, supporting their efforts and exchanging in relaxed conversation about events at home or school. Children clearly benefit from this easy atmosphere at the club and the natural enthusiasm of the staff. All ages have a good selection of play choices so they spend their time after school in relaxed conversation with friends or participating in an interesting range of activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enjoy being part of a club where staff know them well and encourage them to make choices about how they spend their time. They liaise closely with parents so they get to know children as individuals and respond accordingly, such as allowing the older ones more independence. Children are able to share events from school and home as they engage in conversation with staff and friends although the opportunities to learn about the wider world through activities and resources are rather limited. Staff are aware that some children have specific needs and clearly understand how to make them feel included and supported. There is good liaison between parents, school and staff to support individual children so that all feel part of the club.

Children behave well and understand the guidelines in place and respect the extra flexibility they are given when they are part of the club. This helps children to adapt to different situations while still acknowledging their personal responsibility to behave sensibly. Staff feel strongly that children respond positively in an environment where their opinions are sought and valued and where they are allowed good choice in how they spend their time. Therefore, staff regularly ask children what they would like to do and often act on their suggestions, such as having a fish and chip supper.

Partnership with parents works well as staff are friendly and approachable and regularly speak with them. All required information about the club is shared at registration through discussion and the parent pack which includes all the main policies. However, staff are not fully aware of the need to maintain a complaint log which can be shared with parents to give them a complete picture of the club. Parents are provided with ongoing information through photographs, notice board displays and the monthly newsletter and this ensures they can fully share in their children's time there.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children at the club benefit from a well-organised provision where staff work well together in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The programme is well planned to provide children with a wide selection of activities and a good balance of free and more structured play. The indoor and outdoor space is used effectively to maximise play opportunities for all children. The staff and children relate well to each other and enjoy sharing time together. Efficient procedures are in place to ensure the suitability of those who work with the children and systems for induction, supervision and appraisal ensure staff are well supported. Staff's professional development is maintained through their commitment to training and the delegation of certain responsibilities within the club. All the documentation for the efficient management of the provision is in place and this is well organised and generally up to date. This ensures the safety and well-being of the children who attend the club. Staff work effectively with the school and the management committee to ensure the club operates well and welcomes all. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection there were three recommendations set in relation to the ratio of qualified staff, the presence of at least one staff with current first aid training and the lost and uncollected child policy. Half the staff now hold an appropriate qualification with another booked to start in September and half the staff hold current first aid certificates. The required policy for lost and uncollected children is also in place.

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):

- maintain a complaint log in line with the updated guidance to the National Standards
- extend the opportunities for children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the wider world.

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