

KidsOut at Summercroft

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY272103
Inspection date	17 May 2007
Inspector	Julie Ann Birkett
Setting Address	Summercroft Junior School, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 5BJ
Telephone number	07939 463519
E-mail	stortfordkidsout@aol.com
Registered person	Linda Davies
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

KidsOut at Summercroft is a privately owned group. It opened in 2003 and operates from a building of two classrooms within the grounds of Summercroft Junior School in Bishops Stortford. A maximum of 20 children from four to under eight years may attend the scheme at any one time. The scheme is open each weekday from 07:30 until 08:50 and 15:15 to 18:30 during school term times. During some of the school holidays the scheme runs from 08:00 until 18:00.

There are currently 62 children aged from four to under 11 years on roll. Children come from the local catchment area.

The scheme employs five staff, of these two, including the manager hold appropriate qualifications. One member of staff is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment where staff follow appropriate hygiene procedures to minimise the risk of cross-infection. For example, play tables are cleaned with anti-bacterial spray before the children eat from them. All the required documentation to promote the children's health is in place. For example, allergies and medical conditions are recorded to ensure appropriate care can be given. There is an extensive range of health policies to support staff's knowledge in these areas. Staff have first aid training which enables them to deal with minor injuries as they occur.

Children are able to choose from a range of sandwiches during the afternoon sessions and enjoy their desserts such as yoghurt and biscuits. Breakfast provides children with a good start to their day and they choose from a range of cereals and toast, fresh juice or milk. Children help themselves to healthy snacks of fresh fruit as part of their 'five a day'. The children sit together at meal times chatting and sharing their experiences. They know where they can access cups to enable them to have a drink of water at any time throughout the sessions.

Children enjoy a good range of activities that contribute to their physical well-being. They have regular opportunities to play outside in the fresh air which stimulates their minds and bodies. They enjoy ball and team games and 'letting of steam' as they run around. Inside the children energetically keep hula hoops spinning on their bodies and dance along to the karaoke machine. They bend, twist and stretch using all their bodies as they play twister. Children learn that physical activity is fun which promotes a positive attitude to exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children's safety is highly compromised because the premises are not secure enabling children to leave unsupervised or unauthorised persons to gain access to them. Staff check the internal aspects of the premises such as socket covers each day but have failed to consider the implications of poor security. One written risk assessment highlights that doors should be secure but this is not implemented in practice.

Children are provided with ample space across the two rooms to spread out on the floor, sit at table top activities or enjoy larger group games. The furniture, toys and resources they use are in a suitable condition and safe for the children to use and are appropriate for the age and number of children attending. The children's understanding of safety is adequately promoted through everyday routines. For example, they are reminded not to climb on tables and to be careful of each other during large physical activity. Children are very clear about the emergency evacuation procedure as they confidently explain to a visitor what they have to do when they hear '10 blasts on the whistle'.

Most of the required documentation to promote the children's safety is in place. For example, emergency contact details of parents, carers and nominated family members are recorded to enable prompt contact in cases of emergency. A procedure for any outings conducted is in place to ensure children's safety is maintained when off the premises. The movement of children from school to the club is managed well.

Children are safeguarded because there are appropriate child protection policies and procedures in place. Staff have a sound understanding of their roles and responsibilities and some staff have attended child protection training to develop their understanding in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children come into the group very eagerly and quickly settle to a wide range of activities before and after their busy day at school. The breakfast sessions are relaxed and quiet with children occupied with their drawing, puzzles, watching television and chatting amicably with their friends. Children benefit from being able to select their own activities and work together to develop their own ideas and games. For example, a new karaoke machine sparks the children's imagination to form their own 'X factor' competition. Another small group of children sat diligently creating a large mosaic from small pieces of paper. Individual children choose to sit quietly, happily drawing, playing board games or watching a DVD. Children play and work independently in the environment and freely access the range of materials and resources set out and readily request further equipment from the storage cupboard.

Children have developed good relationships with the staff and say 'they like the staff'. Staff foster these positive relationships by working alongside the children and being involved in what they do and say. For example, a member of staff joins in the hula hoop game while another sits on the floor with the children at their craft activity. Children are confident in the company of staff and they enjoy laughing at the same jokes and games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a sense of belonging to the club as talk proudly about their pieces of artwork displayed on the windows. They are encouraged to take responsibility for their environment as they help to tidy up and put rubbish in the bins. The children are encouraged to express their preferences for activities through a questionnaire enabling them to have input into what is available. Children contribute to the 'club rules' clearly displayed on the wall and understand the agreed codes for behaviour. Children are well behaved, they share and take turns and play with each other amicably. All children benefit from the wide age range of children attending and all learn from each other.

Appropriate systems are in place to support children with additional needs and staff ensure information regarding children's needs are noted so that consistent care can be given. All children are treated with respect and the setting's written policies underpin the ethos of inclusion for all children. Children are developing an understanding of the wider world as they play with some toys, equipment and resources which promote awareness of diversity such as puzzles and books. The staff help children develop ideas regarding diversity from topics worked on in school.

Informative literature about the club fosters positive relationships with parents and carers and the setting's policies and procedures are available in the setting. Daily verbal exchanges between staff and parents and carers help staff meet the children's individual needs with consistency. Notice boards allows information to be displayed for parents and carers.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Appropriate systems are in place to ensure all staff are checked to ensure they are suitable to work with children. All new staff undertake an induction programme and they are supported by a mentor. The club closes for three training days and staff also take part in local authority training opportunities to continue to develop their skills and knowledge. However, such measures have failed to make staff aware of important requirements in keeping children safe.

A key person system operates to forge good links with families and to support new children settling into the group. Staff to child ratios are met to provide appropriate support to the children.

There is an operational plan which outlines the aims and objectives of the club and includes a wide range of policies and procedures. Most of the required documentation to promote the children's well-being is in place. However, the daily record of children's hours of attendance is not maintained efficiently to promote the children's safety. For example, children's hours of arrival at the breakfast club and their departure at the after school club are not always recorded. This compromises children's safety as staff do not have an accurate record of the children present in situations such as fire evacuation.

Overall children's needs are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting were asked to ensure safety risk assessments are recorded, to keep records of hours of attendance for staff and visitors and to update the child protection policy to include action to be taken if allegations are made against a member of staff.

Since the last inspection a written risk assessment is made but this had failed to identify the risk to children of the entrance doors being left open throughout the session resulting in the inadequate judgement for this inspection. Staff and visitor hours of attendance are recorded as required which has improved the daily management of the setting. The child protection policy now includes procedures to follow if an allegation is made against a member of staff and is currently being revised to include recent changes in the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines. This ensures that appropriate procedures are followed to safeguard the children's welfare.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure the premises are secure and children are not able to leave them unsupervised
- ensure the system for registering children's attendance on a daily basis, showing hours of attendance, is maintained accurately
- ensure staff are trained to have an understanding of safety requirements for the environment in which they work.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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