

Kindergarten Kids Ltd Afterschool Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY340487
Inspection date	09 July 2007
Inspector	Cilla Rachel Mullane
Setting Address	St. Alphege C of E Infant School, Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DA
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Registered person	Kindergarten Kids Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Sessional 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?

St Alphege After School Club is one of five settings run by Kindergarten Kids Limited. It opened in 2007 and operates from the hall in St. Alphege Infant School in Whitstable. Children have access to the school playground for outside play.

A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time, and there are currently 45 children on roll.

The club is open each weekday from 15.00 to 18.00, term time only. Children come from the local area, and the club runs a school collection.

The club employs nine staff on a part time basis, and three of these hold early years qualifications. At any one time, at least two of three staff are qualified.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is generally well-promoted because clear records are kept regarding accidents and medication. However, the accident forms are kept in a loose leaf file, which has the potential to compromise children's safety if for example, the pages become lost or disorganised. There is always a member of staff present with a first aid qualification, so children would be cared for knowledgeably in an emergency.

Children have access to snacks as soon as they enter the club from school, and through most of the session. They readily help themselves to food and drink, and enjoy tea-time as a social occasion. Children benefit from the provision of an excellent variety of healthy snacks, such as oranges and celery. However they are also given spreads with high sugar or salt content, such as jam and marmite. Parents are informed about the foods available, and are able to suggest food their child likes via a menu plan when the child starts at the club, and staff add these to the selection on offer. Additionally, children are shown the importance of eating fruit and making healthy choices during activities such as making smoothies from the left over fruit at the end of the week, or to drink at sports days.

Children's need to release energy after the structured school day is recognised by staff, who quickly organize access to the school playground for children who want to go outside. They enjoy playing with hoop and balls, and joining in organised games.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Staff work hard to set out the environment so that it is welcoming to children, and meets the needs of children after the school day. They can enjoy a snack, burn up energy outside, or relax in front of the television watching a DVD on soft cushions. Activities are set out for them, such as a craft table and table-top games, but they also confidently ask for resources from the good range available, and staff are quick to act on their requests.

Children would be kept safe in the event of a fire, because they are familiar with the evacuation plan, they practice this regularly, and know why this is important. They confidently describe leaving the building by designated exits, remaining calm, and leaving their belongings behind. Children are able to play safely outside because there are sufficient staff for them to be effectively supervised, and the use of walkie-talkies means that staff can communicate quickly if a problem is encountered. They are kept safe at collection time because staff meet parents at the school door to allow them into the building. Staff further protect children by phoning to confirm the identity of adults who collect children, when someone unexpected arrives.

Children are protected from harm because a clear policy for safeguarding children is in place, which includes an accurate description of the procedure for dealing with allegation against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children very much enjoy their time at the after school club. They are keen to complete activities, and often reluctant to leave when their carers arrive to collect them. Children have strong views about what they enjoy at the setting, naming watching television, playing football, making masks, playing with the play dough and making things at the art and craft table.

Although some activities are set out for the children's arrivals, and themes are planned, children have a good deal of input into decisions about how they spend their time. On some days there is a 'children's choice' table: they often request the play dough. Staff are led by the children's interests: for example, today's mask making activity developed into making reindeer masks. A cooking week is planned at the children's request, with a visitor coming in to demonstrate 'non-cook' food.

Staff plan themes which are fun, and which are relevant and meaningful to the children. For example, they have enjoyed making kites, father's day cards, and a Lego building competition. Staff consistently enhance children's enjoyment by appreciating and praising their efforts and achievements, building self esteem and confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children take part in activities which help them to develop a sense of community, for example, at the children's request, they enjoyed the topic 'drawing our environment'. Staff get to know the children very well, and can therefore meet individual needs in the provision of activities. For example, staff play computer chess with a child who is keen on this game.

Children are busy, interested in the activities, and behave well in the setting. The children have contributed to the rules, and are therefore expert at describing desired and unwanted behaviour, and the reasons why they should behave well. They know that it is important to smile, and share resources, and that pushing and fighting are unacceptable. They know that it is dangerous to run, and swearing is not allowed. Staff model respectful behaviour, showing politeness by example.

Parents develop friendly relationships with the club's staff. They enter the setting confidently, and thank staff as they leave. They appreciate the fact that the children have a snack, they feel the session is well structured, and that safety is a priority. Parents are given appropriate information in writing about the club, including details about behaviour management, and their attention is drawn to the operational plan containing full policies and procedures, at the entrance. Questionnaires have been given to parents in order to ascertain their view regarding the club, and their views are taken into account informally. A complaints record is appropriately prepared for use, but requires extra detail to comply fully with guidance.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The after school club meets the needs of the children for whom care is provided.

Staff are experienced and skilled in the care of school-aged children, and gave a good understanding of the needs of children when they come out of school. The pace and routine

of the session is good, with children initiating activities, developing their own games, having opportunities to play outside, and enjoying a 'chill-out' time at the end of the session. Staff do not over-direct the activities, but are there to support and join in if that is what the children want.

All the required documentation is in place and well-maintained, supporting the staff in promoting good outcomes for children. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for signing themselves in and out of the club, but staff back this up with an accurate record of attendance. Children's record forms include all information necessary for staff to be able to care for children effectively.

An action plan is used to secure improvements in the care of the children, for example, there are plans to update a member of staff's first aid qualification, and improvements have been made to children's safety during their school pick-ups by ensuring that staff keep in touch via the walkie-talkies. Management have clear and realistic views on the strengths and weakness of the setting. For example, it is felt that children are cared for in a 'home from home' environment, and that the service helps parents.

Improvements since the last inspection

First inspection since registration: 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 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):

- ensure that the accident record is well organised
- ensure that children are offered consistently healthy snacks
- ensure that the complaints procedure complies fully with guidance.

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