

Ashtead Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122546
Inspection date	06 February 2008
Inspector	Joanne Lindsey Caswell

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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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?

Ashtead Kids Club has been registered under its current owner since 2001. It is a privately-owned club and offers breakfast, after school and school holiday care for children. The club operates from the Youth Centre in Ashtead, Surrey. A maximum of 48 children may attend at any one time. Children aged up to 11 years are able to attend and are included in the registered numbers. The club is open Monday to Friday, for 50 weeks of the year. During term time, the breakfast club opens from 07:45 to 09:00. The after school club opens from 15:00 to 18:00. During all school holidays the club is open from 08:30 to 17:30. The club currently serves five different local schools and children are both taken to and collected from school by club staff. Children have access to a large hall, an adjoining sports hall and a canteen area. Toilets and hand washing facilities are also available. Staff have access to a kitchen. A public playing field and hard courts are used for outdoor play.

There are currently 130 children on roll. The club provides support for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

A team of nine staff work with the children. Of these, six staff are either qualified or currently working towards a recognised early years or playwork qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

There is excellent provision in place to encourage children to develop a healthy lifestyle. The provision for healthy eating and physical activity is particularly good. Children develop a very clear understanding of foods which are good for them, through innovative strategies used by staff. For example, the popular tuck shop and the selling of fizzy drinks has recently been replaced with healthier options. Children now enjoy nourishing and nutritious breakfasts and wholesome snacks after school. In addition to this, children learn about healthy eating from visitors to the setting who help children to develop an awareness of the importance of nutrition. Furthermore, during school holidays, children undertake outings to a local fruit farm, enabling them to have first-hand experiences of picking their own fruits and develop a positive attitude towards healthy eating.

There are excellent opportunities for children to take part in frequent exercise and robust, physical activity. Some children walk to and from school and all children spend time outside, particularly during the playscheme. The daily timetable of activities incorporates excellent use of the sports hall where children enjoy games such as tennis, badminton, bouncy castle and parachute games. Specialist teachers visit to offer activities, such as dance and football. This encourages children to benefit from exercise which enhances their physical development.

Children's welfare needs are met exceptionally well. Staff have a full understanding of children's health needs and maintain comprehensive records of all accidents and any administered medication. All staff hold first aid certificates and there are strict procedures in place for the exclusion of sick and infectious children. These measures contribute fully towards promoting children's health and welfare.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

There are many good procedures in place to ensure children's safety. Staff carry out risk assessments before the children arrive each day and in preparation for all outings and visits. All equipment and resources are regularly checked for hazards and are maintained to a safe standard. Written records clearly reflect how staff promote children's safety and welfare in the event of emergency situations and considerable detail is recorded to ensure that all children are collected from the appropriate schools each day. Staff are vigilant in promoting children's safety whilst on outings and implement a ratio of one adult to every five children ensuring close supervision. Good communication is in place between all staff to ensure that children are accounted for at all times. Children travel safely in staff members' cars as all appropriate legislation is adhered to, in terms of the use of booster seats, and relevant insurance is in place.

The premises offer ample room for children to play and move around freely. Good use is made of the different areas to offer a varied range of activities safely. However, the premises are not fully secure when the external doors are not kept locked during sessions. As a result, unauthorised personnel can gain access the premises whilst children are present. Staff overcome this by ensuring an adult is situated near the door at all times. However, this is not fully effective in preventing unauthorised access and, therefore, has an impact on children's safety.

All staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities regarding safeguarding children as they complete appropriate training. Written procedures include relevant procedures to follow if staff have concerns about a child in their care. This ensures that children's welfare is promoted at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and clearly enjoy their time spent at the club. Many children excitedly talk about their favourite aspects of the club and engage in a very good selection of play opportunities and activities. There is very good provision for children to take part in structured activities, such as the dance class and art activity, or relax in quieter activities, such as watching television. This enables children to unwind after their busy day at school and participate in activities of their own choice. Children benefit from very positive relationships with staff and enjoy close interaction with them. This results in a very relaxed, homely and fun environment.

There is very good provision for children to make new friends at the club. Many children attend different schools, yet form close friendships and enjoy one another's company. All children play happily and co-operatively together and benefit from play with both older and younger children.

The daily timetable is based around children's own interests and includes fun, imaginative outings and play opportunities. For example, during school holidays, children regularly undertake trips to the theatre or cinema and other activities are based around different themes. This enables children to benefit from a fun, well-planned programme of activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop a strong sense of belonging within the club as their views, suggestions and ideas are clearly listened to and valued by staff. Before making any changes within the club, staff devise questionnaires to gain both children's and parents' views. As a result, children feel valued and acknowledged.

There are very good opportunities for children to learn to respect the needs of others. All children are kind and courteous to one another and the older children are mindful of the needs of the younger children. Staff organise charity fund raising events, enabling children to develop an awareness of, and empathy for, other people. Toys and activities reflect positive images of the wider world and help children to develop understanding of multi-cultural events. For example, children participate in activities associated with Chinese New Year.

All children are welcomed into the club as staff operate an inclusive policy. Staff are fully committed to meeting all children's needs appropriately and treating all children fairly.

Children's behaviour is managed effectively. There are many good procedures in place for diffusing unacceptable behaviour levels and staff complete appropriate training. As a result, any unacceptable behaviour is dealt with appropriately, resulting in a positive and happy atmosphere.

Good strategies are in place for ensuring parents are kept fully informed of all club policies and procedures. An informative notice board displays club information, staff training certificates

and daily timetables. In addition, parents receive comprehensive newsletters, outlining staff information and forthcoming activities and events. A full written record of complaints is maintained and all relevant written parents' consent is obtained. This ensures that children's care routines are formally agreed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The club is managed by qualified, competent staff. Good procedures are in place to ensure that staffing ratios are adhered to at all times and a bank of qualified staff helps to support this. All staff show a proactive approach to updating their knowledge and skills and this is reflected in the current high percentage of staff completing training. Effective procedures are in place to ensure that all staff, including specialist teaching staff, are appropriately vetted and cleared to work with children.

The daily routine is planned well around the children's needs. The relaxed, friendly and fun environment helps children to feel welcomed and enables them to benefit from the homely atmosphere.

All regulatory documentation is maintained in full. An accurate record of children's attendance is in place and parents clearly understand the policy for signing their children out of the club upon collection. All policies and procedures are freely available and contain appropriate detail. Records and documentation ensure confidentiality.

The club meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, two recommendations were raised. These related to the provision of a sickness policy and improved information concerning children's health and welfare. The club have addressed both these issues. An effective sickness policy is now in place and has been shared with parents. This ensures that any infectious children are excluded from attending. Effective procedures are now in place for recording information regarding children's health and welfare. These measures contribute towards promoting children's health and welfare.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint. This related to National Standard 1: Suitable Person; National Standard 2: Organisation; National Standard 3: Care, Learning and Play and National Standard 6: Safety. Concerns were raised regarding the attitude of management, adult to child ratios, the quality of care provided, staff to child interaction, no car seats being used when transporting children and the safety of children on outings. An unannounced visit to the setting was made and actions were raised relating to National Standards 2, 6, 12 (Partnership with Parents) and 14 (Documentation). A response to these actions was received which indicated that the provider was now meeting the National Standards and, therefore, remains qualified for registration.

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):

- improve the overall security of the premises by ensuring the external door is kept locked, preventing unauthorised visitors from gaining access

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