



Hermitage Kool Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY256870
Inspection date 13 July 2005
Inspector Justine Ellaway

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Registered person Hermitage Kool Kids Club
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?

Hermitage Kool Kids Club opened in 2001, and operates from the community room in St. John the Baptist Church of England Primary School, Whitwick, Leicestershire. A maximum of 26 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday during term-time, from 15:00 to 18:00 and during school holidays from 08:00 to 18:00. Children have access to an outdoor play area, including nature garden, playground and grassed area.

There are currently 69 children aged from four to twelve years on roll. Children come

from various local schools. The club currently supports children with special educational needs.

The club employs thirteen staff. Eight of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have regular opportunities to participate in physical play. They enjoy the freedom to move around and engage in different types of play in the outside area, although they are sometimes only able to play for short periods as staff are not always clear about where children should be playing. Their physical skills are further promoted as the setting offers frequent outings during holiday periods. Children's good health is promoted as staff implement effective hygiene procedures when preparing food and drink and children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating. There are appropriate records in place for the recording of accidents, incidents and medication which ensure children receive appropriate care, however there is not always a qualified first aider on duty. Policies for excluding sick children are in place and shared with parents, as a result the good health of children is maintained, and the risk of spread of infection reduced.

Children have a varied choice of healthy snack, drinks are regularly available and menus are displayed to keep children and parents informed. Children's social skills are developed at snack times as they sit together, however their independence is not fully promoted as they are not always able to pour their own drinks and snack is organised and served by staff. An alternative is offered at snack time and dietary information gathered and considered to ensure that all children are sufficiently nourished.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children have sufficient space indoors and this is effectively organised to provide space for table top activities, floor play and snack. Children demonstrate confusion about where they should be playing outside as they receive inconsistent messages from staff. Overall children's safety is not effectively promoted. Although the procedures for the collection of children help to keep them safe, not all staff are aware of what to do if a child is lost, are not secure in their knowledge of health and safety issues and therefore do not regularly carry out checks to identify risks and hazards. Children have not been involved in developing the club's safety rules and do not often receive consistent messages from staff regarding safety, consequently they do not always demonstrate an awareness of their own safety or the safety of others.

Children can self select from a varied and appropriate range of toys and games,

which promotes their decision-making skills. Children's creativity and imagination is not always promoted as there are limited opportunities to self select art and craft materials. Equipment and resources are safe for children to use as there are effective procedures for checking and dealing with any broken equipment. There are instances when children's welfare is not fully safeguarded, as staff are unaware of the procedures to follow if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff, and the child protection policy does not include this information or contact details for the relevant agencies. Parents are made aware of the setting's responsibility relating to child protection at their initial meeting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is inadequate.

Some children demonstrate confidence and are comfortable in the environment, with staff and their peers. Children's self esteem is sometimes promoted as staff show an interest in them. Children can usually choose what they want to do and have access to most of the toys and equipment, which promotes their decision-making skills and independence.

A range of activities are planned and displayed on the notice board, however many of the art and craft activities are repetitive and offer little challenge for children who attend. Opportunities for children to do their own creative activities are limited, as they are unable to self select art and craft materials. The free play element of the session is not effectively organised, as a result children are unsettled and do not engage in anything purposeful or play well together. Children do not always receive appropriate support from staff, as a result their behaviour is at times inappropriate. Staff do not always effectively encourage children to learn about right and wrong, as a result children do not always demonstrate a clear understanding of the boundaries.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children have suitable opportunities to learn about diversity and develop an understanding of the wider world. Children are encouraged to take part in all activities. Regular communication with parents of children with special needs ensures that they receive appropriate care, however the written statement does not contain all of the relevant information. Activities are modified where necessary to enable all to participate at their own level.

Children have some understanding of the rules of the club, however their behaviour is not always appropriate. Children receive inconsistent reminders and messages about behaviour and as a result do not always know what is expected of them. The written behaviour statement does not include all the relevant information and staff do not often have opportunities to discuss behaviour, as a result children are not always supported effectively to play well together. Suitable methods to encourage good behaviour are not understood by all staff and are therefore not fully effective in encouraging or motivating children to behave. Information is gathered from parents,

they receive detailed information about the club, and there is regular oral feedback from staff to provide continuity of care for children.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The premises are welcoming to children and their parents, and as a result some children are comfortable and confident in the environment. Effective recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that suitably qualified and experienced staff are employed to work with children. Children's welfare is not always promoted, as staff are not fully familiar with the policies and procedures of the club, resulting in inconsistency in practice. The ineffective organisation of time and resources does not always support children's care. Children are sometimes unsettled and do not engage in play for any length of time, as there are often insufficient numbers of staff to support them or staff are not always effectively deployed.

There is a detailed operational plan for use by staff, and all of the appropriate child record forms and permissions are in place. However children's safety and well-being is not always promoted as a lost child policy has not been clearly devised and some of the policies and procedures do not contain all of the relevant information, for example child protection, special needs, behaviour management. Overall the needs of the children are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to ensure that the child protection policy includes procedures to be followed if allegations are made against a staff member. This has not been completed, staff are not familiar with the procedures and as a result children's welfare is not fully protected. An action has been raised.

The setting was also asked to devise a policy detailing procedures to be followed in the event of a lost or uncollected child. This has not been fully devised and not all staff are aware of the procedures to follow, consequently children's safety is not fully promoted. An action has been raised.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 that there is a minimum of two adults on duty; that staff are effectively deployed to ensure the safe and efficient running of the club; and that policies and procedures are up to date, and include relevant information.
- ensure that staff are fully familiar with the health and safety procedures to promote safety within the setting, including procedures to follow in the event of a lost child, safe use of the outdoor space, procedures to follow in the event of an allegation of abuse against a member of staff; and that children are aware of safety issues to keep themselves safe
- develop staff's awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development, ensure that methods are consistently applied and that children are aware of the boundaries
- plan and provide a suitable range of activities for children, which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs

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

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