

**Class of their Own @ Downs Junior School**  
Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY350210
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Alison Weaver
<b>Setting Address</b>	Downs Junior School, Rugby Road, BRIGHTON, BN1 6ED
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<b>Registered person</b>	Class Of Their Own Ltd
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Class of their Own at Downs Junior School opened in 2007. It operates from a large hall in a school building in a residential area of Brighton. A maximum of 48 children may attend at any one time. The group opens five days a week during school holiday periods from 08.30 until 17.30. They also run an after school facility five days a week from 15.15 until 18.00 during school term times. All children share access to several secure outdoor play areas.

There are currently 77 children from four to under eight years on roll. The setting also take children aged up to eleven years. The setting offers support to children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The setting employs seven staff. The manager and three of the staff hold teaching qualifications. The other three staff are working towards a teaching qualification.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about the need for personal hygiene through some everyday routines such as hand washing. Staff remind the children to wash their hands before they have their lunches and snacks. In general, the areas used by the children are clean and hygienic.

Children bring their own packed lunches. The food cannot be stored in a fridge so parents are asked to use ice packs to help keep food fresh and prevent food poisoning. The club finds out about any dietary needs and allergies so that they can ensure that children are not exposed to any foods that could have a negative effect on a child's health, for example, when taking part in cooking activities. Staff provide a variety of healthy snacks for the children including fresh fruit, cheese and crackers, pitta bread and houmous. Staff make sure that drinks are made easily accessible to children throughout the day to help prevent them becoming dehydrated. Children are able to help themselves to water whenever they need a drink.

A clear sick child policy and a first aid trained member of staff ensures that children are cared for appropriately should they become ill or have an accident. Staff have access to a first aid kit at all times so they can act quickly if treatment is needed. Satisfactory records are kept with regard to the administration of medication to ensure that children receive the correct dosage. The setting does not fully promote sun safety with the children. Staff remind children to use sun cream to protect themselves. However, although parents are asked to provide sun hats many children do not have them. These children sit in the full midday sun eating their packed lunches without wearing hats. They also play outside in the sun in the hottest part of the day.

Children enjoy plenty of physical exercise as they join in a variety of organised and free play sport activities, both indoors and outdoors. They also enjoy using the adventure playgrounds with the climbing walls and monkey ropes. Children have the opportunity to join in swimming trips.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe and secure environment. The staff ensure that the main gates are kept locked once the setting is in operation. There are other users on the shared school site so staff have to monitor the children, particularly when allowing children to access the toilet areas. Staff deployment is generally good but there are times when children are scattered around several different parts of the site and this makes their supervision more difficult.

The buildings used are generally well maintained and the areas are checked daily to ensure that they are safe for children's use. Staff carry out a formal risk assessment before the club season starts and reviews this regularly. These checks help ensure that the hazards are minimised for the children. However, one of the toilets is broken and is leaking water. This toilet has not been adequately blocked off to prevent access to children. There are also exposed electrical sockets in the hall used by the children.

Staff talk to children about different safety issues, such as fire evacuation, at circle times. The children show they are developing a good understanding of what to do in a fire as they explain

to their friends how to stay safe. Children also show they are thinking through the issues as they ask about different scenarios. Regular fire drills are carried out to ensure that staff and children know what to do in an emergency.

Children enjoy playing with a satisfactory range of safe and suitable equipment, which is made available to them. There are clear safety procedures in place with regard to some specific equipment such as glue guns and different glues. This helps ensure staff know how to keep children safe.

The provision has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure staff safeguard and promote children's welfare. The staff have a satisfactory knowledge of signs of child abuse and know what to do if they have a concern about a child.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children arrive happily at the club and quickly get involved in the free play. Children are confident in the friendly and relaxed atmosphere created by staff. Despite the wide age range, the children play well together. Children have plenty of choices and can opt out of group activities if they wish to. They are free to play indoors or outside in the different playgrounds. Children have fun making camps outdoors. The children are interested and well occupied at the activities.

The children enthusiastically participate in a variety of sport activities. They enjoy the organised group games such as 'Swim fishy, swim'. Art and craft activities are very popular with the children and several of them spend a long time absorbed in making jungle models and masks. They experience different creative activities such as painting, clay, collage and recycling modelling. Some of their work is displayed on the walls, showing that staff value their contributions.

Children relate well to staff and to each other. They confidently approach staff for support showing that they build good trusting relationships. Staff talk to children about what they are doing and respond to their interests. The management plan a variety of fun outings for the children such as trips to Tilgate Park, bowling and a visit to the beach.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff respect and value children as individuals. All children have the opportunity to take part in all the activities. Staff are given written information about a child's individual needs with regard to nationality, learning difficulties, disabilities, health and allergies. Staff informally talk to some parents about the cultural or religious background of a child to ensure any differences and traditions are respected. There are some resources and activities that show positive images of race, culture and disability to help staff promote a positive attitude towards the wider world. There are appropriate systems in place to help include and support children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children generally behave well and respond positively to staff. Any incidents are handled calmly and appropriately. Staff are good role models, helping children learn how to respect others. Children benefit from the praise and encouragement from staff. They learn to share and take turns as they play. The children in the after school club know what is expected and what the

boundaries are as they decide on the club's agreements together. However, the holiday play scheme children are less involved in the making of club rules.

Relationships with parents and carers are informal and friendly. Staff talk to the parents about their child's day when they are collected. Parents receive written information about the club, the policies and activities. They also have access to the club's website.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall, the club is organised effectively and space used satisfactorily for the children. The required staffing ratios are met but the management of the children around the site is not always fully effective. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The legally required documentation, which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and well maintained.

The staff are caring, enthusiastic and work well together. There is a satisfactory induction programme covering issues such as child protection, safety and fire procedures. Staff appraisals and ongoing training workshops help support and develop staff. They have their own copies of the policies and procedures to enable the setting to run smoothly and safely for the children. The complaints procedure is appropriate but does not have the correct details for the regulatory body. Staff have regular meetings to discuss the plans and delegate responsibilities.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

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 satisfactory. 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 full information is obtained from parents about children's religion and culture to enable the appropriate care to be given

- update the complaints policy to include the current address and telephone number of the regulatory body.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)