

Ecclesall Kids Club (infant)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300856
Inspection date	09 July 2007
Inspector	Joanne Susan Boon

Setting Address	High Storrs Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S11 7LG
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Registered person	Ecclesall Kids Club
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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Ecclesall Kids Club (Infants) has been registered since 1998. It operates from a separate building within the grounds of Ecclesall Infants School in a suburb of Sheffield. There are two play rooms, with toilet facilities and a large grassed playing field. The out of school club is registered to care for 35 children aged between four and eight years. There are currently 50 children on roll. Holiday and term time care is available. The club is run by a voluntary management committee and receives support from the Out of Schools club Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy active physical play in the grounds of the school every day, which helps to keep them healthy. They use a good range of outdoor equipment enthusiastically and with confidence. Staff support children well to develop and extend their physical skills. The main indoor play area provides children with ample space for activities and opportunities for rest and relaxation.

Staff are aware of health guidelines and implement appropriate hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infections. For example, suitable antibacterial sprays are used to clean the tables before snack. Staff have detailed information about the spread of infection held within clear policies. Accident and medication records are maintained well and parents are informed that children should not attend the club if they are unwell.

Children are offered a range of snack foods when they arrive from school. These include bags of crisps, chocolate covered biscuits, pre-packed cheeses and fromage frais. These options do not offer children a nutritious diet or promote a healthy lifestyle. Staff prepare all the snacks and pour the drinks which does not encourage children's independence. Parents' wishes are considered so that children's special dietary needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to access ample, safe space to allow them to enjoy a variety of activities. They use a good range of appropriately maintained resources. They move around freely and can visit the toilet independently. The play environment is adequately maintained.

Consistent reinforcement of boundaries helps children to begin to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe. For example, children are reminded not to climb on the tables when waiting for snack. Fire drills are held regularly and recorded in detail. This encourages children's understanding of how they must behave to facilitate safe evacuation. Staff are deployed appropriately on most occasions, however, supervision of children during busier times needs to be reviewed. All the required safety policies are in place.

Staff have a sound understanding of child protection issues and attend regular training sessions. Positive links are in place with the teaching staff at the school the children attend. Children are able to share any concerns they have with staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy coming to the out of school club. They are able to get involved in activities of their own choice, depending on their own individual needs and interests. For example, several children develop a new game after experimenting with craft scissors on the grass outside. The children talk about the different texture of the grass compared to the cardboard they had previously been cutting and then plan grass cutting competitions: 'I'm going to cut the whole field. They won't need a mower again.' The atmosphere is very relaxed and welcoming, and children interact warmly with all the staff as they talk about the days events, and plan what activities they will do at the club in the summer holidays.

Children choose from a good range of toys and equipment, for example, several children develop games with large cardboard boxes. The boxes are manoeuvred outside by the children who then cut and draw designs on them. The boxes then become surf boards, space ships etc. Staff provide a good balance of activities influenced by the children's likes and requests, that develop both their physical and imaginative play. They encourage children to develop their own ideas. The children are supported well by staff who understand their abilities and encourage their skills. Children are able to request additional resources, in order to support their play on most occasions.

Children are confident and independent in their surroundings. Relationships with staff are very good and children are given regular encouragement in their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children make positive relationships with one another and develop a true sense of belonging to the club. Children chat and play with their friends throughout the session. They are considerate and kind to one another and enjoy group games and activities. An equal opportunities policy is available within the club's documentation and some resources that promote difference and diversity are evident within the club environment. Children with additional needs are supported well. The out of school club staff are committed to working in partnership with school and parents to provide individual plans for children requiring support.

Children's behaviour is generally good. They are mostly polite to both staff and their peers. Good behaviour is supported and reinforced by the club staff. Staff are consistent in their management of children's behaviour but would benefit from additional support from their colleagues when supervising more challenging children when playing outdoors.

Staff have positive relationships with parents. All parents spoken to commented on how much their children enjoy coming to the club. There is a regular display of useful information for parents on a notice board in the main room. This also contains information regarding the out of school club's complaints policy.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff ensure that the premises and play resources are organised to support children's care, learning and play. There is a simple routine for each session, allowing children time to play together and relax. Parents' wishes regarding their child's care influence day-to-day practice.

Staff are suitably qualified and experienced to promote children's well-being. There is planned access to appropriate training and professional development. Staff supervise children well on most occasions, however, deployment of staff when children are outside needs to be reviewed to ensure the needs of more challenging children are met. The complaints policy is detailed and shared with parents. All other documentation is well organised and contains the necessary information to safeguard children's welfare.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the out of school club have developed a clear complaints procedure. This is displayed on the parents' notice board along with details of how to contact Ofsted.

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 complaint 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):

- review the arrangements for the provision of meals and snack to place more emphasis on the promotion of healthy eating patterns
- review how staff can be more effectively deployed within the premises to ensure the safety, welfare and development of all children.

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