

St Michael's Out of Hours Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	503964
Inspection date	23 January 2008
Inspector	Elaine Murray
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Registered person	Out of Hours Kids Club Ltd
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St. Michael's Out of Hours Kids Club is one of nine out of school clubs owned by the same provider. It opened in 2001 and operates from rooms within St. Michael's Junior and Infant School, Aigburth, Liverpool. A maximum of 48 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.25 to 17.45, during the school term times. Some years the setting operates a holiday club for two weeks at the end of July, which opens Monday to Friday from 08.00 until 18.00. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 42 children aged from three to under eight years on roll. Children come from the local area. The club employs four staff. Three staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's physical development and enjoyment of exercise is promoted well through a variety of activities. Staff value the importance of regular fresh air and outdoor play. Children enjoy playing football and other team games, and make use of a range of small equipment such as bats and balls. They freely make use of the outdoor area for role play and dressing up activities. Children also benefit from weekly games sessions with a visiting teacher.

Children show an awareness of simple hygiene procedures as they routinely wash their hands before snack and after using the toilet. The club's clear sickness policy is shared with parents and helps to protect children from the spread of infection. Two staff have up to date first aid training, helping to meet children's needs in the event of an accident or emergency.

Children learn to enjoy a healthy diet as they are provided with varied and nutritious snacks, including fresh fruit. Fresh drinking water is readily available for children from a water fountain, and children are given water to drink at snack time. This helps to promote their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a satisfactory range of toys and equipment which are suitable for different ages and abilities, helping to meet their needs. However, when children arrive at the club there are no toys or resources out, which means that the environment is not inviting. Younger children sit and wait for several minutes until the older children arrive at the club before resources are put out. Space is appropriately used as areas are provided for different purposes, for example for children to be quiet, complete homework, or be involved in activities. Children have access to benches and hard chairs to sit on, but there is no comfortable furniture for children who wish to relax or rest.

Satisfactory daily safety measures are in place to protect children from hazards and dangers. Staff make a daily check of the premises. They produce written risk assessments which identify potential hazards and action is taken to minimise the risk to children. However, these records were not available for inspection. Children learn to keep themselves and their environment safe by actively helping to put toys away. Children learn to protect themselves in the event of a fire or emergency through regularly practising the fire evacuation procedure.

Children are protected as staff have a satisfactory knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and hold relevant contact numbers.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are content and secure and have positive relationships with staff. Children arrive happily at the club and are settled. Children enjoy and are involved in the wide range of activities provided, which effectively promote their all round development. Children make masks, jewellery and decorations. They show interest and enthusiasm as they mix paints to make different colours and take part in dressing up, role play, table top games and outdoor play. Children freely and confidently choose their own resources and activities. Staff follow children's interests

in choosing and carrying out tasks, helping to develop children's confidence and self esteem. They join in children's play, interacting well to sustain their interest, ensuring that children are occupied and involved. Staff sit with the children at snack time and talk to them, showing a genuine interest in their ideas and contributions. This helps to promote children's confidence and self esteem. Children learn to share and co-operate with others as they take part in team games and play table top games together. They show positive relationships with each other as they lead and take part in action games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are included in the activities provided and individual needs are met. This helps to promote children's confidence and self esteem. Children have harmonious relationships with the staff and each other and display a caring attitude, as older children help younger ones to put on dressing up clothes. Children develop an awareness of diversity and the wider community through a generally good selection of resources and activities that promote positive images. Children develop an awareness of different cultures and beliefs through art work relating to festivals such as Chinese New Year and Diwali. Children behave well due to staff's positive and consistent approach. Children are familiar with the routines of the club and are encouraged to share and co-operate with others.

Staff have established positive relationships with parents. They request information about children before a child joins the club and obtain relevant parental permissions. This information is used to help meet children's needs appropriately. Parents receive an informative brochure when their child joins the club, including many policies and procedures. A parent's notice board gives further information about the club. Information about children's progress is shared informally through talks at the end of the session. This communication between parents and staff helps to promote children's welfare, care and learning.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an appropriately organised environment. Staff are deployed to meet ratios and support children's well-being and development. There are clear appointment and induction procedures in place, helping to ensure that staff are suitably qualified and checks are carried out. Most staff hold relevant qualifications and attend regular courses to update their knowledge, which has a beneficial effect on children's learning and welfare. The required records maintained, helping to ensure continuity of care for children. However, some records such as risk assessment and qualification certificates were not available for inspection. Policies and procedures are appropriately in place and contribute to positive outcomes for children.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was required to provide more appropriate activities for younger children. Younger children can take part in a range of appropriate activities such as dressing up, craft and outdoor play. This has a positive effect on their enjoyment and learning.

The setting was also required to provide a comfortable area where children can rest and relax. Staff have provided a separate area for children to play quietly or carry out homework. However,

the provision of comfortable furniture for children who wish to relax or rest remains as an area for improvement.

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 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 children are provided with welcoming environment and that appropriate furniture is provided for children to rest or relax
- ensure that records are available for inspection.

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