

Kaleidoscope Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY227002
Inspection date	06 August 2007
Inspector	Mary Daniel
Setting Address	Damers First School, Damers Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2LB
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Registered person	Kaleideoscope Kids, Damers First School
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?

Kaleidoscope Kids Club has been registered since September 2001. It operates from a self-contained unit within the Damers First School, which is situated in Dorchester, and offers places to children who attend the school. Children have use of a main play room, kitchen and toilet facilities. They also have use of the reception classroom and additional classrooms as required. There is an enclosed outdoor play area available.

The kids club is registered to care for a maximum of 36 children aged from four years to under eight years at any one time. There are currently 110 children on roll. The club provides out of school care, which operates from 08:00 - 08:50 and 15:15 - 18:00 on Monday to Friday, term time only. During the autumn term, the club also offers a 'wrap around' care facility, whereby reception class children who have started in their first term at school and attend for only half a day, can stay on at the kids club from 12:00 each weekday. A summer holiday play scheme is also provided for three weeks during the summer holidays, operating from 08:00 - 18:00 on Monday to Friday.

The group is run by a committee, which consists of school governors, teachers and parents, and they employ a team of six staff, the majority of whom have either completed relevant childcare and play work qualifications, or are currently working towards this training.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are supported in following suitable hygiene routines. For example, they wash their hands before eating their snack, using squirty soap and paper towels. Premises are clean and tables are wiped after use. Consequently, appropriate systems are in place to help to prevent the spread of infection. Suitable procedures are implemented for the administration of any necessary medication. Parents sign to give permission and entries made are countersigned by staff on administration. Accidents are clearly recorded and parents sign to acknowledge entries. This contributes to the effective management of children's health and well-being. Children are protected from sun harm when playing outside as sun hats are available and a gazebo is put up to provide a shaded area. However, written parental permission for the suitable management of the administration of any sun cream has not been considered. This means aspects of children's continuity in care are not fully promoted.

Children's dietary needs are discussed with parents and staff are clearly aware of the appropriate management of any allergies. Staff inform parents of any planned cooking activities, to ensure ingredients used are safe for all children attending. Children develop some awareness of healthy eating as they eat apple, banana and raw carrots for their snack. They enjoy a food tasting session, where they try vegetable samosas, spring rolls or star fruit and make their own pizzas with toppings of cheese, mushrooms or peppers. This helps them learn about foods that are nutritious, although several planned cooking activities include sweet items such as 'sweetie kebabs'. Children can ask for a drink during the session, which helps to ensure their fluid levels are maintained. However, water is not readily available for them to independently access when thirsty, or to remind them of regularly taking a drink. Children enjoy a range of physical play activities. For example, they hold a 'sports day' where they join in with a sack race, an obstacle race or do some skipping. They have use of the school hall where they can run off their energy safely. They sometimes visit a local play park and planned activities are provided in the outside area when the weather is fine. This provides some chances for children to benefit from being in the fresh air. However, at times opportunities for physical play are overlooked, which means some children may not always be included in having regular exercise in their play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in bright, attractive rooms. Space is organised effectively to enable them to move around safely and play areas are welcoming. There is a wide range of toys and games available, which show as clean, well maintained and age appropriate. For example, children have colourful cups and plates to use for their snack time and use easy-to-hold chunky felt pens to draw their pictures on the whiteboard. There are various construction sets and games for different abilities available, which helps to provide suitable challenges for children in some areas of their play.

Children's safety is supported well through the prevention in place. For example, on outings children wear reflective jackets to ensure they can be clearly seen when walking outside. Staff plan a quieter route to venues, where zebra crossings are in place to help cross roads. A mobile phone and parents contacts are taken, which helps staff in managing any emergency situation. A keypad is fitted at the main door and visitors attendance is recorded. This helps to promote children's security at the club. Staff complete regular risk assessments to ensure play areas are safe before children arrive and are aware of possible hazards that may occur, such as when

floors become slippery. Clear emergency evacuation procedures are displayed and fire drills are completed regularly with the out of school club. However, children attending the holiday play scheme, some of whom do not attend the before or after school provision, have not yet participated in a drill. This impacts on some aspects of children's safety. Children's welfare is supported through the basic awareness that staff have of child protection issues. A clear policy is in place and written information is available for reference, although this is not always sufficiently reviewed to ensure all staff are fully confident in procedures to follow in managing any concern arising.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle to play easily and mix happily with their peers. They become involved in their own activities and make an interesting variety of model cars together. They enjoy racing these across the carpet and keep a written record of their progress. Children use brightly coloured construction materials to mould a 'crowd of dinosaurs' to 'cheer' them on in their races. As a result, children naturally develop their fine motor and imagination skills within their play. Staff plan a range of interesting activities based on age appropriate themes. For example, a day on 'circus skills' is organised and children help to make juggling balls and colourful clown hats. A 'Superhero' day is planned, where children create a superhero costume, masks, wristbands and they also make puppets. They use collage materials to make pictures, or create designs on marbling paper and draw an alien for a competition. Consequently, children are offered suitable play activities to encourage their creative imagination and they have fun.

Children like being at the club and talk about previous activities they enjoyed, such as a treasure hunt for some pirate coins or a visit to the cinema. They interact happily with staff and enjoy playing table top games with them, such as 'four in a row', or 'walk the plank' where they roll some dice to try and get across the water to reach the pirate treasure chest. This supports them in turn taking and promotes their counting skills. Staff form friendly relationships with children and overall show an interest in their ideas. They chat to them about their holidays or hobbies. However, there are times when staff interaction is limited and is not consistent in extending children's play, or developing their self-help skills. For example, children can make their own choices in play from the easily accessible range of toys and games available, but they do not help in preparing their snacks or pouring out their own drinks. As a result, there are times, when opportunities are missed to encourage children's independence skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed and valued. Their individual needs are respected and discussed with parents to ensure appropriate care is provided and clearly detailed registration forms are completed. Staff are aware of any specific allergies and dietary needs and these are carefully managed in liaison with parents. For example, in cooking activities or use of face paints. Activities are organised to enable all children to participate and their ideas are taken into consideration when planning. Parental involvement is encouraged through daily discussion and planned activities are displayed. Children help to make a scrapbook of their holiday club activities to share with parents. This helps to keep parents informed of the provision offered to their child. Parental permissions are obtained for taking photos, going on outings and any necessary emergency medical treatment. However, this has not been obtained for use of plasters or administration of sun creams, which impacts on some aspects of children's continuity in care.

Group information is displayed on the notice board, such as their registration and insurance certificates and their policy booklet, which includes a suitable procedure for any complaints.

There is a range of multi-cultural toys and games available, with which children can play and activities relating to different festivals are provided. This contributes to supporting children's awareness of some other ways of living, although some aspects of diversity, such as disability, are not so well reflected within the general play areas. Children behave well and use good manners naturally, for instance saying 'thank you' to a member of staff for helping them. Children are aware of group boundaries, such as where they can safely race their cars and know established daily routines, such as washing hands before eating. Staff praise children and give a positive approach to managing behaviour situations. They give clear explanations and through discussion help children understand why certain actions may not be acceptable. This helps children in developing their own sense of right and wrong.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Suitable staff recruitment procedures are implemented and a clear induction process has been formed. This supports new staff in becoming familiar with the emergency procedures or general daily routines, such as snack time. This helps in ensuring sessions run smoothly overall and encourages children in settling happily, knowing what will happen next. Staff are qualified and continue to attend training through the school. They hold regular staff meetings to plan children's play activities and minute these, which supports the monitoring of ongoing improvements for the club.

Overall, children's records and required documents are in order and are stored securely in a lockable filing cabinet. However, some required written parental permissions are not obtained. Policies and procedures formed reflect appropriate strategies to support children's needs, although some, such as the lost child policy, do not clearly link with the holiday play scheme provision. Confidentiality is observed and a clear policy is in place, which is signed by all staff. Separate sheets are used for the recording of any necessary administration of medication or any accidents. This helps to promote confidentiality in record keeping. Children's attendance is accurately recorded, giving times of their actual arrival and departure. This supports their safety in an emergency situation and ensures correct staff ratios are maintained.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a recommendation was made relating to the system used for recording the administration of any necessary medication for children. Parents now sign a medication form to give written parental acknowledgment of any administration. This helps to support continuity in care for children's health.

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 any complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain some 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 children can independently access drinking water at all times
- ensure regular fire drills are continued during the holiday play scheme, and that all staff are familiar with suitable procedures to follow any child protection concerns arising
- ensure written parental permissions are obtained for the suitable management of administration of a named sun cream, and for the use of plasters.

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