

# Kids R Us

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY293461

**Inspection date** 09 October 2007

**Inspector** Heidi Falconer

**Setting Address** The Annexe, Milton Community Centre, Coles Road, Milton, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB24 6BL

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**Registered person** Sharon Anne Ball

**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](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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kids R Us out of School club is a privately owned provision. It has been established since 1995 and operates from the annex of the community centre in the village of Milton, Cambridgeshire. A maximum of 32 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open five days a week from 15:15 to 18:00 during school term times. The club is open five days a week from 08:00 to 18:00 during school holidays, with the exception of two weeks in the summer. Children have access to an outdoor play area.

There are currently 50 children aged from four to 12 years on roll. Of these, 25 children are under the age of eight. Children come from the local area. The club currently supports a small number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports children who have English as an additional language. The club employs five staff. Four of the staff hold appropriate qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The setting provides a good range of generally healthy snacks that appeal to children. At snack time they enjoy hot tuna pasta, fresh bread with a choice of spreads and fresh fruit. Children are developing an understanding of foods which are good for them. They say 'we like chocolate spread but we don't have it very often because it's not very healthy'. Staff are very conscientious in ensuring that they keep children healthy by meeting their individual dietary needs. They take positive steps are taken to avoid any cross-contamination when cooking. For example, they use a separate toaster to cook gluten free bread.

Children have good opportunities to be active and play outdoors. Children say that playing football is one of their favourite activities. The setting employ a qualified football coach who works with the children on a daily basis, encouraging them to take part in a wide range of physical games. These activities teach them that exercise is fun and promotes their overall health and fitness.

Children are learning to follow good personal hygiene routines. In addition to washing their hands before eating they understand that they must wash their hands prior to helping to set up the tables ready for snack time. Children say that they do this so that they 'don't spread germs'. Children's good health is supported by the staff's clear understanding of good health and hygiene routines. For example, they clean tables using an anti-bacterial spray before and after snacks are served.

Children receive good care if they become ill or have an accident at the setting. Staff keep a detailed log of all accidents and medication which has been administered. These records are shared with parents appropriately. In addition, a high number of staff hold current first aid qualifications and the setting obtain consent to seek emergency treatment.

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

The provision is good.

Staff are able to safeguard and promote children's welfare effectively. The manager has attended safeguarding training and she has a clear understanding of the procedures to follow if concerns arose about a child. Staff's awareness of the procedures is developed through training and discussions at staff meetings. However, the club's safeguarding policy does not reflect the staff's knowledge or changes in legislation.

Children are cared for in premises which are clean and well-maintained. Posters and their art work are displayed to create a welcoming environment. During each session staff use the space in the hall well to set out a broad range of activities for the children. For example, areas are set up to allow children to take part in creative activities, imaginative play, or relax as they read children's newspapers and magazines. Children use a wide range of well-maintained toys, equipment and resources which meet their varying ages and individual needs. However, due to the lack of storage space children's ability to choose resources independently is sometimes limited.

Children have developed a clear understanding how they can keep themselves safe in the event of a fire at the setting. They describe in detail how they will exit the building and they know

that they must not re-enter the building until a member of staff has told them that it is safe to do so. To keep children safe the staff carry out daily risk assessments of the premises and ensure that all electrical equipment is tested on a yearly basis.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the activities on offer and become engrossed in their play. Young children particularly enjoy playing with the 'astronauts' and 'space helicopters'. As they play they are keen to share their experiences and explain how they pull levers to make the rockets 'fly high up into the sky'. Other children take part in activities such as building dens, dressing up and playing suitable computer games on the Play Station. Children say that they like coming to the group as 'it's fun'.

Children actively contribute to the setting and their wishes and desires are listened to and treated seriously. For example, there is a children's council, which allows the children to discuss with staff the activities on offer and make suggestions about the routine of the sessions. In addition, the setting have a 'wish tree' which allows the children to comment about how they are feeling at the group and make suggestions about how it could be improved. Staff have developed genuinely warm relationships with the children which promotes the children's sense of trust and well-being. They make time during each session for children to share news with the group and they spend time with them in their activities.

A very good selection of activities and trips are planned for the children during the school holidays. This helps to broaden their experiences and ensure that they have fun whilst at the club. The children talk excitedly as they recall a recent trip to Woodside Farm where they saw animals and played in the play barn. Other trips have included visiting a dinosaur adventure park, ten pin bowling and a visit to the local wildlife park. Some of these trips incur an additional charge to parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the good partnerships which the staff have developed with their parents. The staff warmly greet parents as they arrive and share information with them about their child. To keep parents informed regular newsletters are produced, detailing events and forthcoming activities that their children will be taking part in. This information, along with booking forms, is also available to parents on the setting's web site. Parents have access to the setting's policies and procedures, as these are always available in the entrance area.

Children have opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the wider world around them through activities and discussions with staff. For example, recent activities have included aboriginal bark paintings and creating Mehndi patterns on their hands and feet. In addition, the children have chosen to support some national charities. They currently sponsor a guide dog called 'Farrell' and dog called Heather as part of a greyhound rescue project. Staff are fully aware of children's individual needs and there are effective procedures in place to ensure that children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities are well supported.

Children feel a sense of belonging as they are engaged in decision making at the setting. They have worked together to formulate the 'club's agreement' which sets out the expectations of how to behave at the setting. Children are generally good at sharing popular toys such as the

astronauts and staff fully support children in negotiating for themselves. For example, when children argue over the resources staff ask the children how they think they could resolve the problem. This helps children to consider the effect that their behaviour has on others.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Effective recruitment, vetting and appraisal procedures are in place to ensure that children are cared for by suitable adults. Regular staff meetings ensure that staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities and that they work together as a team. As a result, children benefit from consistent care.

All the required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place. However, the club's policies are not regularly reviewed and therefore some do not reflect changes in legislation or the procedures followed at the club. All records which relate to the children are stored securely to respect confidentiality. The registration system clearly shows children's times of arrival and departure. Overall, children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the provider agreed to update the written information provided for volunteers so they are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities. This information has been updated, which helps to ensure that children receive consistent care.

## **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 good. 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 written policies to ensure that they reflect current legislation and the procedures followed in the setting
- improve the organisation of resources to allow children greater freedom to select toys for themselves.

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)