

# St Mary's Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 101880

**Inspection date** 29 January 2008

**Inspector** Angela Cole

**Setting Address** St Mary's C of E Infant School, Bouncers Lane, Prestbury, Cheltenham,  
Glos, GL52 5JB

**Telephone number** 01242 244054

**E-mail**

**Registered person** St Mary's Kids Club

**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?

St Mary's Kids Club opened in 2000 and is located at St Mary's Church of England Infant School in the Prestbury area of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. A management committee made up of governors of the school and parent representatives runs the club. It may operate from several classrooms, including the music and rainbow rooms, with occasional use of the main hall. There are enclosed areas for outdoor play with grass and hard-surfaced areas. Children attend from St Mary's Infant and Junior Schools.

The club is open each weekday from 15.00 to 17.30 during school terms. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. There are currently 35 children on roll aged between four and eight years. The staff have experience of supporting children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The club employs a team of four staff. Of these, two hold appropriate childcare qualifications. The club has close links with the two feeder schools.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The children have good opportunities for exercise and fresh air. They use the hall for energetic ball games and races, create their own games of chase across the playground and access the challenging 'trim trail' when the grass is dry.

Children's good health is actively promoted as staff follow effective procedures and practices that meet their health needs. For example, they use colour-coded cloths for cleaning and dropped food is immediately discarded. Children gain an understanding about hygiene as they willingly wash before handling food. Suitable arrangements ensure that children receive consistent care regarding medication, accidents and illness.

The children understand the importance of taking regular drinks as a way to maintain their health. They gain understanding of the value of good nutrition as they choose from a selection of fruits and later make their own sandwiches. They enjoy varied, well presented and nutritious foods that comply with all special dietary requirements to ensure children remain healthy.

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

The provision is good.

Children are safe in the warm, bright environment that is welcoming with high quality displays of their work. Premises are very clean, well maintained and kept at a suitable temperature to ensure children's safety and comfort. The space is effectively organised for the children's play. Toilet facilities meet the children's requirements and they can visit these safely. Children have access to a good range of equipment that is safe and suitable for the ages attending. They choose their own toys and equipment easily from clearly labelled storage on low-level shelving.

Staff know about implementing health and safety procedures to promote children's safety. They are well deployed to ensure that children are appropriately supervised. Daily checklists and school risk assessment plans identify hazards to minimise the dangers to children. As a result, access to the provision is monitored to keep children safe and so they do not leave the premises unsupervised. Staff give particular attention to the safety requirements of children with additional needs.

Children effectively learn to keep themselves safe. For example, they frequently practise leaving the building in an emergency and understand appropriate explanations, such as why tables should be left together. The children's welfare and protection is given high priority. The club ensures that all staff receive training and information, though the written policy is not fully up to date. Children are well protected by staff's clear understanding of local procedures concerning child protection issues.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and enjoy their time at the after-school club. They have easy access to a good range of stimulating, challenging toys, games and activities. They select these from storage to help set up the room, including drawing materials. Staff's daily planning is based around the needs of children so they make good progress in all areas of their development. Children are

well involved in suggesting ideas for new purchases and for themes on which to base their play. For example, they choose to create a circus picture and use small equipment, such as balls and stilts to practise juggling and balancing skills.

Children effectively develop their language and thinking skills as they enjoy relaxed conversations with staff and each other. For example, they negotiate to make pictures and models connected with the song, 'Five speckled frogs'. They confidently count to agree how many flower petals are needed for a 'flower' and experiment to find the best way to make the centre of a 'lily'. Children are keen to investigate materials, such as magnetic sticks, to design and construct complex models. They enjoy role play and dressing up, for example, as medical staff. In better weather, children spend long periods outside with equipment they choose to take with them, for example, to make rubbings of tree bark and leaves.

The children feel valued, safe and relaxed with the small team of familiar, caring adults. Staff actively join in with the children's play, including outdoor games, and show sincere interest in what children do and say. The leader role models how to value children's thoughts and creative ideas for her staff. In this way, adults effectively help to extend and develop the children's interests and involvement by listening to them and responding to their after-school needs.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle quickly as they are familiar with the adults and the facilities. They gain good self-esteem as they are well supported by staff's sound knowledge of them and their care requirements. All children are well included, particularly any with additional needs. Children spontaneously take care of each other and the younger ones. For example, they volunteer to serve those on their snack table and older ones carefully avoid young children as they dash across the playground back to base. A range of resources gives children suitable experiences of individuals from the wider community for them to develop a positive attitude to others.

The children's behaviour is managed sensitively through the consistent expectations of staff. For example, children are praised when they have held the door open for others and fairly shared the equipment, such as construction pieces. Children highly benefit from the staff's calm approach and from their continuous role modelling of consideration and politeness towards each other. Incident records are well maintained so information is shared with parents.

Staff continue to build up good relationships with parents so that children are cared for in accordance with their wishes. Families receive clear information so they are suitably informed about the club and their child's care. Parents are well informed about their child's activities so they are able to support them effectively at home. For example, they see children playing, share their creations and talk with the approachable staff at the end of the day.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children are effectively cared for by a small team of staff who are well experienced and suitably qualified. There are robust procedures for appointing, vetting and checking the ongoing suitability of adults. These include appraisals that usually takes place annually to attend to staff's development needs. The operational plan is well developed and flexible to support children's welfare and play requirements.

Children are well cared for in the child-orientated environment. They relax as they play individually or in small groups, being active or resting as they wish. Space and activities are effectively organised to stimulate the children and to meet their needs. Children are well supported by generous ratios of staff who closely supervise their activities, remaining vigilant during outdoor play so that they are safe.

All legally required documentation that contributes to children's health, safety and wellbeing is clear, up to date and regularly reviewed. This includes clear registers for children, staff and visitors. Most policies are up to date and these reflect the club's supportive practice. Good arrangements for sharing records with parents ensure that children are collected safely and families are kept informed. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

The previous care inspection recommended that the setting improved information for parents and developed staff's knowledge of child protection procedures. Families are now provided with information on how to contact Ofsted with any concern so the partnership with parents is enhanced to foster the children's care. Staff have attended training to increase their knowledge and awareness of child protection procedures; the child protection policy now includes procedures to follow if an allegation of abuse is made while a child is in the care of the setting. This has improved the provision for the safety and protection of the children.

### **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 the 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):

- ensure that the written policy for child protection complies with procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

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)