

# Whitecross Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	101811
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Glenda Sinclair
<b>Setting Address</b>	Church Road, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 5DZ
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<b>Registered person</b>	Forest of Dean District Council
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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?

Whitecross Kids Club opened in July 1994. It operates from a room within the leisure centre, the children also have use of the sports hall, gym, and occasional use of the swimming pool. The field and Astroturf are used for outdoor play. The centre is situated in Lydney, in the Forest of Dean. The club is managed by the district council.

A maximum of 26 children may attend this club. The out of school club is open each weekday from 15:30 to 17:30 in term time and from 8.30 until 17.30 in school holidays. There is no play scheme during the Christmas holiday. A private bus service collects children after school from three primary schools in the local area. Children may attend from a wide catchment area. The setting supports a number of children with special needs.

Three staff work with the children on a rota basis. There are currently 40 children on roll.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children have many opportunities for exercise. Children attending throughout holidays are often able to sample different organised activities such as kickboxing or ice skating, but swimming forms a regular feature of the out-of-school curriculum. Independence is encouraged, so older children are responsible for their own hand-washing regime. However, children are reminded to wash their hands before eating and use paper towels, thus minimising any risk of infection spreading amongst them. Medication and accident records are completed appropriately to ensure children's safety.

The after-school club provides a variety of healthy and appealing snacks, such as fruit and toast. Throughout holidays, parents send sufficient food to last for the day. Perishables are stored in the refrigerator to maintain freshness. Children have ready access to drinks, especially when exercising vigorously. This limits the risk of children becoming dehydrated.

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

The provision is good.

Staff pay careful attention to security. When moving from one area of the centre to another, children know that they must wait for staff before going through the next set of doors. Parents collect their children from the play room, which limits the opportunities for children to leave unsupervised. Risk assessments are completed before outings and staff wear fluorescent jackets and children wear wrist bands for easy and swift identification. Toys and equipment are well maintained and are safe for play. Fire procedures are in place and children practise fire drills in different areas of the building, so that they are accustomed to using alternative exits. Staff use hand held two-way radios, so that they always have immediate access to outside help in an emergency.

All of the staff have completed child protection training. They are familiar with the signs and indicators of abuse and the procedure to follow if they have concerns about the safety or welfare of any child in their care.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their play. Staff provide a varied and entertaining range of activities, which promote physical, social and intellectual development. Children make free choices from a range of activities and are able to ask to get some other toy or game out of the cupboard. For example, they paint, make models using recycled materials, make badges, make bead pictures and do jig-saws. They make trips to the library every week and, through holidays, they can choose to swim every afternoon. They make occasional trips out to enjoy activities such as making dens with a Forest Ranger or to visit the local fire station.

There are excellent relationships between children and the staff, who provide a caring environment in which children feel safe to talk about any situations, which might trouble them. Children know each other well. Some meet old friends at every holiday scheme and resume their friendships. Older children are willing to help younger ones with a chosen activity. Staff

enhance children's self-esteem and encourage the less able to enjoy the same physical activities as their peers.

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

The provision is good.

Staff respond well to children's individual needs and encourage the children to view difference in a positive way. Children bring in postcards of their foreign travels so that everyone can share their experience and they celebrate various festivals, usually with an appropriate craft activity. Staff support children with learning difficulties or disabilities, as required. Children behave very well. They are happily involved with their activities and show no signs of boredom or disruptive behaviour. Staff use praise well to reward and encourage good behaviour and have strategies in place to cater for poor behaviour. Children help police themselves by helping to write the club rules, which both the children and staff sign up to.

There is a good partnership with parents. Staff keep them well informed about activities through the excellent photographic displays. A parents' evening was held this year, which proved to be successful and parents have sent letters of commendation to the club.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Whitescross Kids Club meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Staff organise the room, activities and resources so that children can play happily and safely. Staff meetings and staff appraisals are held regularly but there is no system in place to allow the staff to evaluate their provision and to help them improve and develop what they have to offer to the children. Registration records show the times that parents collect their children. However, children are collected from three local schools on three different buses and staff do not record the time when they take over the children's care, from the schools. All necessary parental permissions, policies and procedures are in place to ensure children's safety.

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

At the last inspection, staff were asked to ensure that all accident entries contain sufficient information. The records now contain sufficient information to protect 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 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):

- devise ways of evaluating the provision so that staff can continue to improve and develop what is on offer to children
- devise a system for accurately recording the time that staff become responsible for children's welfare.

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)