

Kids Kapers After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 205528 |
| Inspection date | 19 November 2007 |
| Inspector | Valerie Fane |
| Setting Address | The New Hill Centre, Welland Road, Upton upon Severn, Wircestershire, WR8 0SJ |
| Telephone number | 07773 484 171 |
| E-mail | |
| Registered person | Kids Kapers After School 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.

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 Kapers After School Club is owned by a partnership and was registered in 1999. It operates from a leisure and sports centre on the outskirts of Upton Upon Severn. Children have access to one main large playroom and occasional use of the indoor sports hall and committee room. There are outdoor play facilities available situated to the rear of the building. The setting mainly serves children from the local community.

The club is open Monday to Friday in school term times and selected weeks in the school holidays. Sessions are from 15:00 to 18:00 during term-time, and from 09:00 to 17:00 during school holidays. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently 38 children on roll and approximately one half of these are over eight years of age.

Five staff work with the children. Of these two have appropriate qualifications to Level 3 or above. At least half of the staff working with children under eight years of age are qualified at each session.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop their understanding of the principles of healthy eating because they are offered a healthy snack of a drink and a piece of fresh fruit when they arrive at the club. They follow this with a freshly cooked meal such as spaghetti with cheese or bolognaise sauce or a roast dinner with fresh vegetables. The menus include a good range of options that supports healthy eating as well as children's favourites. Children's dietary needs are met because staff obtain relevant information at the time of admission and post it clearly in the kitchen so that the cook is aware of any special requirements. Children extend their awareness of healthy eating through relevant activities. For example, they make a display with pictures of healthy foods with some additional written comments from older children.

Children understand the benefits of fresh air and exercise because they play outside whenever daylight and weather permit. They extend their physical skills on the large play equipment in the park or develop co-ordination as they play ball games such as rounders and football.

Children learn about the importance of good hygiene routines because staff remind them to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. They receive suitable care in the event of an accident because all staff have current first aid knowledge. Staff keep a record of any accident that occurs and ensure that this is signed by parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children use premises that are suitable and are kept clean and well-maintained. The layout of the equipment is attractive and welcoming. Children see their own work displayed on portable display boards. They use a generally good range of high quality, well-maintained equipment that is stored in a large cupboard in the main hall. Children use the toys put out by staff to make the room look welcoming on arrival and self-select additional toys from the cupboard.

Children receive care in a safe and secure environment because staff have assessed and minimised hazards. For example, they are aware of the risks when other hall users have to return chairs to the room and ensure that they are escorted to and from the cupboard and do not have any contact with the children. Staff carry out daily risk assessments of the premises and the outdoor play area and identify any issues such as lack of soap in the toilets. There are excellent procedures in place to ensure that children are collected from school safely and schools are fully aware of the arrangements. Children understand how to protect themselves in an emergency because they have regular opportunities to practise the evacuation procedures and staff keep a record of the practises. Children learn to use equipment such as snooker cues safely.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff have a good understanding of the symptoms of child abuse and the procedures to follow if they were to have concerns about a child in their care. The child protection policy has recently been updated and staff are aware of the amendments. Children develop their awareness of their personal safety because they learn not to talk to strangers around the sports centre or in the park and have the message reinforced by occasional visits from a police officer.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the after school club. They come in with enthusiasm and are familiar with the daily routine so they know that they can help themselves to fruit and a drink, play with the toys put out in advance by staff or self-select from the equipment in the main cupboard. They are familiar with the club rules. For example, they know that they must use the egg timer to monitor turns on the play station. Children develop excellent relationships in the club and mix extremely well with those of different ages and those who attend different schools. Older children are considerate of the needs of younger ones when they are playing with them.

Children choose freely from a wide range of different equipment and enjoy the option of more structured activities at some sessions such as leaf painting or icing biscuits. They freely use the range of creative materials offered where they can initiate their own ideas or continue with something they have been doing at school. They like to play table top games with friends or select more active options such as a game of pool. They spend part of each day either outside or enjoying an indoor physical activity such as parachute games. Staff evaluate the success of different activities and adapt the planning accordingly. For example, they plan to extend the range of dressing up clothes available because these resources were very popular when they were borrowed from the toy library recently.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children of all ages develop their individuality and self-esteem because staff get to know them well and develop good relationships with them. Children learn about other religions as they celebrate different festivals such as Diwali by making clay pots and talking about the festival. However, children have limited opportunities to develop their awareness of our wider society because the club has few resources which reflect diversity apart from those such as dressing up clothes that are borrowed occasionally from the toy library.

Children generally behave very well at the club. They respond positively to staff because they are calm and are good role models. Children's occasional challenging behaviour is managed effectively by staff because they look at the needs of particular children and put strategies in place to support their individual needs such as a safe place to go for children who easily become angry. Staff keep written records of significant behaviour incidents.

Children benefit from the good relationship that the staff have with their parents. Parents receive an informative brochure about the club before their child attends. They receive ongoing information about their child's care through conversations when children are collected. Parents are very positive about the club and many aspects of the service it provides such as the cooked meals, the activities provided and the security arrangements for collecting children. However, the complaints procedure does not include the name and address of the regulator. Therefore, parents are not fully informed of factors that potentially impact on the children's well-being.

The club has not recently cared for children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There is an appropriate policy in place and staff recognise the importance of working closely with parents to ensure children's needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children flourish in the well-organised Out of school club environment and benefit from the experience and expertise of the excellent team of staff who work with them. Staff are committed to attending regular relevant training to improve their practice such as healthy eating, physical fun, food hygiene and first aid. Good staff ratios are maintained at all times because the manager ensures that the 1:8 ratio is in place for children of all ages including those over eight years of age. The manager provides clear leadership and holds staff meetings regularly to ensure high standards of care are maintained.

Children are protected from harm because the recruitment procedures are thorough. This ensures that all staff have undergone Criminal Records Bureau checks and are suitable to be in contact with children and existing staff are currently undergoing fresh checks to confirm their continuing suitability.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because all required policies and procedures are in place, are reviewed regularly and are readily available to staff and parents. Parents also provide all necessary information and consents before their child attends the group. The registration system clearly shows children's hours of attendance.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group was recommended to develop the written special needs policy, to minimise the risks to children when using the outdoor play area and the area used for storing their personal belongings, to expand the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse against a member of staff or a volunteer and to review the medication procedures.

Children's safety and welfare has been enhanced because the staff have responded well to these recommendations. The special needs policy and the relevant section of the child protection policy have both been expanded to include all relevant details and are readily accessible to both staff and parents. Medication procedures now include a signature from parents to confirm that they have been notified of the dosage given. Children access the outdoor area safely because the staff are vigilant about checking the area before they use it each day. They report any safety concerns to the council, ensure children do not use damaged equipment until it has been repaired and pursue issues with the council if they do not respond promptly. The storage arrangements for children's personal belongings have been improved by the addition of a hanging rack for clothing so that there is more space on the adjacent table for children to store their bags safely.

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):

- improve the complaints policy to include the name and address of the regulator
- improve anti-discriminatory good practice: improve the range of resources which reflect diversity.

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