

Kidzone@Spring Bank

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY242626
Inspection date	04 December 2007
Inspector	Jane Elizabeth O'Callaghan

Setting Address	Spring Bank School, Spring Road, Leeds, LS6 1AD
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Registered person	Kidzone@Springbank
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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?

Spring Bank Out Of School Club opened in 1990 and is run by Kidzone Limited. It operates from the community room at Spring Bank School in the Headingley area of Leeds. The Out of school club serves the local and surrounding areas.

There are currently 46 children from four to eight years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 08.00 until 09.00 for Breakfast Club, 15.30 until 17.45 for Out of School Club and 08.30 until 17.30 for the Play Scheme.

There are four members of staff who work with the children. Over half are suitably qualified to the post and two members of staff are currently working toward a recognised childcare qualification.

The setting receives support from the Early Years Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop a good understanding about the importance of healthy practices through effective daily routines and staff explanations. They are encouraged to practice good routines of personal hygiene and wash their hands independently after messy play, toileting, before eating and also the preparing of snacks. Children develop a good approach to physical exercise. The session is well organised each day to ensure they have reasonable opportunities both indoors and outdoors to develop their physical skills. For example, children can access a soft play area, an all weather pitch and the school hall. Children are well cared for in the event of illness or an accident. Staff have attended first aid training, ensuring that accidents are recorded and the administering of medication is fully implemented.

Children are kept safe from the spread of infection through staff cleaning tables before and after activities and the following of hygiene routines. They have detailed procedures in place to ensure food is stored and prepared safely. Some staff have attended a food hygiene course. Children's individual dietary needs are fully met, as staff gain information on all children's dietary requirements on registration. They are offered a healthy, balanced diet and can independently access drinks throughout the session. For example, children are given cheese, jam, peanut butter and bread so they can make their own sandwiches, plenty of fresh fruit and raw vegetables at afternoon sessions and cereal and toast at before school sessions. This ensures children are in a healthy environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment, which is clean and adequately maintained. The rooms and resources are well organised, which enables children to move around freely and safely. They have free access to a good range of toys and play equipment, which meets the needs of all children attending. For example, sports equipment, games, construction, arts and crafts are all accessible to the children.

Staff are aware of potential hazards and take steps to minimise risks to children. Most safety measures are in place, including fire prevention equipment, fire evacuation plans and the practising of fire drills. However, these are not practised and recorded on a regular basis. The staff are aware of conducting risk assessments, however, these have not been done since the group started at the school.

Children are protected from abuse or neglect through the staffs understanding and knowledge. The staff are aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedure to follow if they have any concerns. There is a child protection policy and procedure available to parents and staff. Staff have all attended training and are aware of the importance of keeping this up to date. The group have contact numbers and makes parents and staff aware of the procedures in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's independence is promoted through a variety of opportunities. They move around freely accessing toys, play equipment and drinks, and learn to be independent. The children's opinion is highly valued through them having free choice of toys. Children are fully involved in a good range of enjoyable activities; all of which develop their language, imagination, creative and physical development. For example, games, construction, role play, television, arts and crafts. The children also have access to a good variety of physical activities outside. For example, balls, hoola hoops and parachute.

The children are very happy and settled and are keen to communicate with staff, enthusiastically showing them things they have done and talking to them about their experiences. They are confident in the setting and receive lots of praise and encouragement to help raise their self-esteem. They build warm relationships with staff, who are very interested in them, constantly interacting with the children and asking them questions to make them think.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued as individuals and are treated with equal concern. All children are welcome, regardless of ability. Children are given opportunities to increase their knowledge of the wider world through discussions with staff and celebrating of festivals. However, resources for children are limited. This is an area that staff are continually enhancing, to ensure that children learn about their community and the world around them.

Children are given good opportunities to develop their understanding of the difference between right and wrong. For example, children have devised their own behaviour rules for the club. The children behave well and show concern for each other. Staff explain the reasons behind behaviour boundaries to help children learn to understand the consequences of their actions. They are given lots of praise and encouragement to reinforce good behaviour, with staff using an appropriate range of strategies to suitably manage their behaviour.

Partnership with parents is effective and children's individual needs are met as staff work alongside parents to collect detailed information about each child at registration. They are informed about the setting and their child through discussions and exchanges of information verbally, through regular newsletters and an informative notice board. There is a complaint procedure displayed for parents and both they and staff are aware of the procedure. This ensures that the club works with parents in a positive manner.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting is organised and the surroundings are bright and welcoming, with displays of the children's work. Staffing ratios are adhered to. Staff have relevant qualifications and some are working towards relevant childcare qualifications. Appropriate vetting procedures are carried out on all staff. They have a suitable induction, which helps them understand their roles and responsibilities and staff effectively implement routines to give children a good range of experiences.

Children benefit from deployed staff who interact with them and give them support and encouragement, which helps them feel secure and confident. All policies and procedures are implemented and available to staff and parents. However, some documentation is not fully completed or kept in a confidential manner. Space and resources are well organised to meet the needs of all children.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group was asked to develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare. Two members of staff are now attending the Leeds Play Network and Sure Start Level 2 play work course. This ensures that the group have at least half of qualified staff present when caring for children

The group was also asked to ensure that staff have up to date knowledge of the child protection procedure and ensure it complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. All staff have attended Child Protection parts one and two in 2007. The group also have all contact numbers available and a policy that all staff are asked to read. Parents are also made aware of the procedures that the group follow. This ensures that children are cared for in a safe environment.

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 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 fire drills are practised and recorded regularly
- develop procedures to ensure risk assessments are carried out and recorded regularly
- develop resources to promote all areas of equal opportunities
- ensure all documentation is fully completed and stored in a confidential manner.

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