

Gilthill Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY256829 |
| Inspection date | 19 February 2008 |
| Inspector | Diana Pidgeon |
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| Registered person | J Pac Limited |
| 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Gilthill Kids Club registered in 2003. It is one of a number of similar schemes provided by JPAC Ltd and operates from designated rooms within Gilthill Primary School, Nottinghamshire. The school grounds are used for outside play. The club is open to children who attend Gilthill Primary School and operates from 15:30 until 18:00 during school term times only.

The club is registered to care for a maximum of 16 children under eight years of age at any one time. Currently there are 50 children from four to 11 years on roll. Children have different patterns of attendance. There are three staff who work with the children. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is suitably promoted through the use of satisfactory hygiene procedures that ensure children are cared for in clean and suitable surroundings. For example, tables are wiped before snacks are served and carpets are kept clean. Children demonstrate an understanding

of good personal hygiene practices as they routinely wash their hands before sitting at the snack table. Suitable policies are in place to exclude children who are infectious and to guide any necessary administration of medication. Staff hold current first aid certificates and this enables them to deal appropriately with any accidents to children. Clear records of accidents are maintained and shared with parents so that children's continuing health needs are met.

Children's nutritional needs are met through the provision of a light tea and access to drinks throughout the session. Children understand that they can help themselves to a drink at any time and this ensures they are not thirsty. They make choices relating to what they eat for their tea and this includes being able to choose from a small range of sandwich fillings. Some regard is given to promoting healthy eating through the inclusion of sliced fresh fruit as part of the tea.

Children benefit from the use of the large outdoor area. This allows them to be active and to spend time playing in the fresh air. Many children enjoy a short period of time playing football and other ball games outside before returning indoors for quieter activities. Children understand the importance of wearing appropriate clothing when going outdoors in the cold and independently put on coats before they go out.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are generally kept safe as staff recognise and minimise most risks within the club. Staff work closely with the children and are alert to potential dangers. However, overall safety is compromised at times by inadequate staffing levels. Staff generally follow procedures to protect children. For example, they ensure visitors sign in and out of the club and they undertake regular fire practices when children are present. The collection of children from the club is monitored by staff, although at times the outer door to the club is not secured. The room used by the children is bright, safe and welcoming and the provision of suitably sized furniture means they can play and eat in comfort. However, children lack a comfortable area in which to relax quietly. They use a suitable range of safe and well-maintained play items and resources and many of these are accessible so that they can choose what they wish to do.

Children's welfare is suitably protected as staff are aware of their responsibilities towards child protection. Key staff have attended relevant training and are aware of the appropriate action to take if they were concerned about a child. Relevant advisory information is available to guide staff so that children are safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally happy and settled within the club. They are familiar with the routines and staff working with them. Although systems are in place to plan activities for children staff have not kept these up to date. However, a suitable range of play materials is set out once children have arrived. Children quickly settle to play and mostly find activities to interest them. For example, some children play games such as 'Connect 4' and 'Buckaroo' with staff. Others use the writing and creative materials to make their own pictures and are suitably proud of their achievements.

Children tend to play in small friendship groups and show an ability to cooperate with others and instigate games of their own making. Many children enjoy a short period of outdoor play,

which allows them to play football and run around freely. They are familiar with the evening routine and benefit from being able to choose when to have their tea so that their play is not unduly interrupted.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Parents receive some useful written information about the club when children first join and some relevant documentation is displayed on the notice board for their reference. However, the club fails to maintain a written record of complaints and does not have systems to make information from this available to parents on request. This is a requirement in legislation. As a result of this omission parents are not fully informed.

Children are all welcomed into the club and their views equally valued. They have some opportunities to make choices and decisions relating to their care and leisure time activities. For example, children choose when to come to the tea table and whether to play indoors or outside. Suitable systems are in place to support children with learning difficulties or disabilities so that they are fully included in the club.

Children mostly behave appropriately in the club. They are generally respectful to the staff and each other. They use good manners when eating their tea and remember to say 'please' and 'thank you' to others. Children mostly show good self-control, for example as they line up sensibly to go outside. Staff deal with any inappropriate behaviour swiftly and calmly by redirecting children into other activities.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children's care is adversely affected by some aspects of organisation within the club. For example, on the day of inspection only one member of staff was on duty at the start of the session to greet and register the children. Although there are contingency arrangements for emergencies these are not implemented to ensure the required ratios are maintained and that children are appropriately supervised. This potentially impacts on children's safety.

Appropriate recruitment procedures are in place to ensure suitable staff work with the children. Overall, the staffing qualification requirements are met and staff are supported to develop their knowledge through attending further training. For example, two staff have recently attended first aid training.

Suitable use is made of the club room and outdoor area to provide space for children to play. However, staff do not always ensure activities are set out before children arrive and this weakens the welcome provided for the children. Most aspects of documentation are suitably maintained. For example, registers are marked as children arrive and depart. All policies and procedures are in place and some are undergoing review. Currently there is no secure storage for documentation and this means confidentiality cannot be assured. Overall children's needs are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to improve the arrangements for keeping parents informed about the club, the policies and procedures and the activities provided for the children. Since the inspection the club has moved into the new school building and has the use of a

designated classroom as their base area. They make use of a small notice board to display key information for parents and this is supplemented by a welcome brochure. This improves the overall information available to parents.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure there is a minimum of two adults on duty and that the minimum staffing level is maintained at all times
- ensure a record of all complaints is maintained and appropriate information from that record is shared with parents on request.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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