

Orca Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY101295
Inspection date	24 October 2007
Inspector	Deborah Jane Starr
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Registered person	Orca Kids Club 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Orca Kids Club is privately owned and was registered in 2001. The club is situated within the modern language block of Nailsea Secondary School, North Somerset.

The club provides care for a maximum of 50 children aged between four and 14 years of age during school holidays. It operates between 08:00 and 18:00, except at Christmas. The after school club provides care for a maximum of 40 children from 15:00 to 18:00, term time only. There are currently 142 on roll. After school children are collected from Grove Nursery and Primary school, St. Francis RC Primary, Golden Valley and Kings Hill Schools. The club supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

There are 10 members of staff currently working with the children. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Well-established hygiene routines ensure children's health is protected. Staff follow appropriate procedures and practices that protect children from the spread of illness and risk of infection. For example, the monitoring of hand washing and regular cleaning of surfaces. There are four staff who hold paediatric first aid qualifications and are experienced in taking appropriate action in the event of an accident. Procedures for the recording of accidents and obtaining parental permission to administer medication are managed appropriately. Written parental permission for emergency treatment is obtained, however, it is not accessible on the premises. Consequently, children's health is not fully assured.

Children enjoy a wide range of physical activities on a daily basis that contribute to their good health and help develop control and co-ordination of their bodies. Specialist instructors and activities help children develop skills in fencing, archery, football, badminton and tennis. They enjoy team games such as basketball and 'duck duck goose'. They develop co-ordination, batting, throwing and balance skills when playing with skipping ropes, bats and balls, and when using roller blades and skateboards; specialist ramps set up by the police extend children's skills further. Children rest and relax according to their needs on the carpeted area using floor cushions.

Children's dietary needs are discussed with parents and taken account of. Children develop an understanding of a well-balanced diet through breakfast and snacks of fruit, toast and muffins with a variety of spreads. Cookery activities promoting healthy choices develops children's understanding further, such as fruit smoothies, fruit kebabs, sandwiches and pizza. Staff take account of recent government guidelines on healthy foods and work closely with the Department of Environmental Health. Children independently access drinks from jugs of fresh water throughout the session and know to drink frequently when hot or after strenuous exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Staff assure children's safety and they play in a safe and secure environment. Daily visual checks, thorough written risk assessments and a regular review of hazards and accident records underlie and support procedures that effectively safeguard children's welfare. These include arrangements for the collection of children from local schools, the security arrangements of the premises, recording of visitors and the procedures for the collection of children by parents and authorised persons. The extensive range of high quality resources and equipment are maintained safely within the maintained premises that offers three main play areas and use of the school gym, computer suite and outside play areas. Resources and equipment are appropriate for the age and range of children who attend. Staff develop children's awareness of their own personal safety through guidance as to how they use new equipment, regular reminders of evacuation procedures and fire drills, and activities, games and discussion about road safety; coinciding with and in addition to, events within local schools. Children's personal safety is promoted further when walking from local schools, the wearing of badges with contact details when on outings, discussion about 'stranger danger' and visitors to the club such as the police and fire brigade. Children co-operatively and spontaneously tidy away toys and games and sweep up objects on the floor to prevent tripping.

Staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard and protect children from harm and the local reporting procedures to be followed. Parents are informed of this responsibility through the parent information pack and a written policy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children arrive happily at the club and become quickly absorbed with self-chosen activities. Flexible planning of the session enables children to make choices from the extensive range of resources and planned craft and art activities. Staff are knowledgeable, offer children interesting and challenging opportunities to develop their skills and have fun through both adult led and child initiated activities. Younger children benefit from the challenge of sharing activities with older children because staff are skilled at adapting activities and supporting them. Staff carefully plan the environment to enable children to access resources and make independent decisions. Excellent relationships and interactions between staff and children significantly enhance their enjoyment. Young children enjoy cuddles and are secure and relaxed.

Children have fun and enjoy themselves. For instance, they colour pre-printed pictures of animals in great detail, use chalk and white boards, draw up and complete a mathematical grid, draw patterns and paint pictures representing Halloween and fireworks using paint. Children of all ages and gender express their thoughts and ideas through their imaginative play. For example, they dress up as a cat or fairy, wear a feather boa and walk around in platform boots or wooden clogs and serve food to each other from a Halloween cafe and hotel. Children sit quietly whilst looking at laminated pictures of children that represent the diversity of the wider world and consider which emotion they are expressing.

Children confidently ask staff and older children to assist them when necessary. Older children show consideration for younger children and include them in their games. Children play co-operatively together, they re-build a Noah's ark model, spend time manoeuvring animals and persevere to complete a complex puzzle. They use a wide variety of materials to create peg figures of witches and eagerly take turns to measure the ingredients for salt dough, check the quantities by reading the recipe and mould the dough into a variety of shapes. Children enthusiastically make models re-creating their own ideas using large and small construction resources and slot pre-cut shapes to create, for example, a castle. Older children enjoy the challenge of cutting out intricate templates of a 'spooky' house under clear instruction and guidance to use craft knives safely.

Visitors to the club such as a puppet theatre and Bristol Zoo lab alongside a diverse range of trips that include London, Bath museum, Bristol Zoo, Dunster and Chepstow Castle, Longleat Safari Park, the Empire and Commonwealth Museum and outward bound activities to Goblin Coombe and Charterhouse extend children's experiences and enhance their understanding of the wider world. Staff thoughtfully support children of all ages, abilities and stage of development to join in and feel a sense of achievement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are highly valued and respected by caring staff who are committed to ensuring that each child's individual needs are identified and met within the club. Children are individually welcomed on entering the premises and fully included. Their self-confidence and positive

self-esteem is nurtured and develops when staff listen to and value what they say. A commitment to creating an inclusive environment and strong links with all the schools from which children attend, alongside proactive liaison between parents and staff ensures they are well informed and that children with specific learning and/or behavioural difficulties are effectively supported to receive the best possible care. Children have fun using the extensive range of resources and participate in interesting and meaningful activities that promote equal opportunities, reflect positive images of diversity and develop their awareness and understanding of the wider world. Children admire themselves in mirrors when wearing an assortment of hats and shoes from different countries. They unconsciously dress up in costumes and wear platform shoes. Children experiment wearing glasses and explore and attempt to identify and match multi-sensory blocks through their sense of touch. Children create patterns and look at the importance of colour in festivals such as Diwali, Eid, Chinese New Year, Hanukah and Ramadan. They enjoy visits by African drummers, listen to a rock group playing multi-cultural instruments and music and are enthralled by a display of shadow puppets from Java. Parents are encouraged to share their experiences with the children such as the putting on and wearing of a sari.

Children are proud of their achievements, confidently showing the visiting inspector a wide range of models, 3D objects, puzzles, paintings and drawings they have made. Children develop a strong sense of belonging to the club through the display of their work, pleasure at seeing themselves in clearly displayed photographs and their eagerness to tell the inspector what they like and dislike. Children are sensitive to the needs of others, play co-operatively together and relate well to each other. They are happy and settled and quickly become engrossed in the extensive range of activities and games, leaving little time for boredom or undesirable behaviour. Children respond well to the high expectations of staff; their behaviour is extremely good. They benefit from the clear, calm and consistent boundaries provided by staff and clear role modelling of behaviour. Children are respectful towards each other and adults and develop positive self-esteem through the frequent encouragement and praise given by the adults around them. Children are actively involved in setting group rules and daily discussion at register time reinforces expected behaviour and serves as a reminder. Children know what is expected of them.

Parents are warmly welcomed by staff who spend time getting to know them and their children. Should problems arise staff are happy to work closely with parents to support children and ensure consistency. Children benefit from the relaxed and friendly relationship between parents and staff. A parent information brochure, clear notices, easy access to policies and procedures, frequent newsletters, web site and the accessibility and willingness of staff to share information with parents ensures they are well-informed about the club and their children's experiences. Parents appreciate the care given to their children and the range of activities on offer. Parents ideas are actively sought through regular questionnaires.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The committed staff team create a secure and stimulating environment within the limitations of the premises. High staff ratios and well-considered deployment throughout the play areas ensures children are fully supported in their play. Children are encouraged and enabled to make decisions through easy access to an extensive range of activities.

Robust and rigorous systems for the recruitment and checking of staff, induction procedures and annual appraisals ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Discussion at staff meetings throughout the year offers staff opportunities to develop knowledge and

understanding of issues such as, behaviour management, safety and child protection and to reflect upon their practice. The management team have a clear understanding of their strengths and weaknesses and areas they wish to improve. Staff members are committed to ensuring their provision is of consistently high quality and annually review and evaluate the provision using guidance from the local authority and a recognised quality assurance scheme.

Staff have a good understanding of the National Standards overall and through this, promote children's welfare. The policies and procedures are reflected in practice and consistently followed; thus promoting and safeguarding children's well-being. Most documentation is easily accessible, well-organised, used appropriately, accurate and maintained confidentially.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was requested to make the following improvement: to increase the range of posters that provide positive images of different cultures.

This recommendation has been considered fully and steps taken to improve the provision. Resources that reflect positive images are extensive including posters. These are changed regularly through the use of a multi-cultural resource centre.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection concerns were raised relating to a number of National Standards.

An unannounced visit to the club was undertaken and as a result of the investigation an action was set under Standard 7: Health. The provider responded to this action within a set timescale and arranged resources to ensure they were meeting the requirements of the standard. The club remains qualified for registration.

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.

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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 written parental permission for emergency treatment is accessible at all times.

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