

Delaware Kids Activity Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	103011
Inspection date	01 November 2007
Inspector	Michael Collins
Setting Address	Delaware CP School, Drakewalls, Gunnislake, Cornwall, PL18 9EN
Telephone number	01822 835837
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Registered person	Delaware Kids Activity 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 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?

Delaware Kids Activity Club has been registered since 2001. It operates from Delaware Primary school which is situated in the village of Drakewalls. Children attending the out of school provision are from a wide area, although the majority of children attend the school. The setting is managed by a committee of parents and interested others.

The setting is registered to provide care for 30 children aged from four-years-old to under eight-years-old. There are currently over 100 children on roll aged between four and 11-years-old. Children attend a variety of sessions each week, some using the provision occasionally. Staff support children who have special needs. The group opens five days a week during school term time and school holidays, except Bank Holidays. Sessions last from 07.45 to 08.45 and from 15.15 to 17.45 in term time, and in holidays opening times are 07.45 to 17.45.

The setting employs five child-care workers. The manager holds a level 6 qualification, one holds a level 5 qualification, two hold a level 2, one of whom is also studying for a level 3, and one member of staff is currently studying for a level 2. The setting are members of 4Kids and receive support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

The staff team arrange and organise a good variety of activities which positively support the children's physical development. Young people benefit from a good range of sporting activities with trained and qualified coaches and they have access to inside facilities, such as the school hall, in inclement weather.

Staff support children to be healthy reasonably well. They support personal hygiene very well and the children's understanding of why and when they must wash their hands reduces the risk of cross-contamination. However, documentation and procedures to support children in being healthy are lacking. For example, there is no system in place to record the administration of medicines, parents do not sign to acknowledge accidents, and the sick child policy does not make it clear that they will exclude sick children to minimise cross-infection.

Children's dietary needs are met by the provision of healthy snacks which appeal to the children. During term time children may have cereal or toast for breakfast or snacks of fresh fruit. During holidays all food is provided by parents and this may be stored safely. Children have access to water at all times and this ensures their fluid levels are maintained throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

The children have a good amount of well organised space to move around in. Staff ensure that there is a selection of activities and space for the children to choose from and they are able to rest or play as they wish. There is a good selection of resources that are stored safely and which children and young people can freely access.

Whilst the staff attempt to be vigilant in ensuring children stay safe there are a number of issues which compromise their ability to consistently and successfully do this. Whilst the setting use the school's regular comprehensive and thorough risk assessments, staff's daily risk assessments are lacking. For example, a gate leading to a road was open at the inspection and could not be closed due to the placement of the padlock, this means that children are able to leave the premises unsupervised and places them at risk. Also, although the setting has a policy for uncollected children, they do not have one for a 'lost' child. Although these issues are somewhat mitigated by knowledgeable and committed staff, they still place children at risk and have impacted negatively on the judgement for this outcome.

The setting have the required policies and procedures in place to promote and safeguard children's welfare. For example, there is always a member of staff with appropriate first aid qualifications on duty and there is an appropriate child protection policy in place. However, there is no system in place to record prior injuries to children and have these acknowledged by parents and carers, thus limiting the setting's ability to fully safeguard the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

A good selection of activities are planned and prepared for the children and they arrive at the setting happily. Children are able to contribute to the planning and make suggestions for

favoured games or activities, such as football, art and craft, or use of the school hall. The warm, caring and consistent relationships developed by staff foster the children's trust and sense of wellbeing. These relationships result in good adult-child interactions, which in turn help to promote the development of good communication and social skills. The relaxed and friendly environment allows children to make confident choices and they are absorbed and very happy in their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Both children and parents are warmly welcomed to the setting, and staff take all appropriate steps to ensure that they consider and act upon individual need, family background and parental wishes. In order to further support this, staff actively engage with parents to support the children to integrate, accept each other, and feel 'at home' in the setting. They are also careful to plan and adapt resources and activities to meet children's individual need. However, whilst the staff have a good understanding and are strongly committed to meeting individual needs, the setting do not currently have a written statement about special needs which is consistent with current guidance, and the equal opportunities policy is out of date.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. They respond positively to the clear and consistent boundaries established by themselves and the staff team. They play co-operatively, share and take turns, whilst being ably supported by the staff. Children and staff have developed genuinely warm and mutually respectful relationships and the children's understanding of right and wrong increases as they respond to gentle reminders to care for their environment, the resources, and each other.

The partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. Information about children's activities and communications passed from the school are shared verbally on a daily basis. A prospectus is available which gives information about activities, the setting, and certain policies. However, the complaints policy is out of date, has not been reviewed, and contains the incorrect contact details for the regulator. Whilst the attitude, knowledge and approach of staff lessen the direct impact of these identified gaps in documentation, it does hinder the settings ability to fully work in partnership with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Recent changes to staffing and structures have impacted negatively on the organisation of the setting. Whilst the organisation of space and resources is managed successfully by the staff team, operational systems and procedural documentation are lacking. For example, as previously mentioned, procedural documentation and policy documentation contain gaps and have not been reviewed. Whilst adequate procedures are in place to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children, procedures for on-going checks to see that staff remain suitable to work with children are not in place. Although staff are deployed appropriately in the setting to ensure that children are supervised and supported, there is not a key-worker system in place that both children and parents are aware of. The combination of these organisational factors, gaps in documentation, and the effect this has on the setting's ability to safeguard the children have negatively impacted on the judgements reached at this inspection. The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The setting were given one recommendation at the last inspection and since then they have improved their ability to support children in being safe by conducting regular fire drills and recording this within the school's existing system.

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:

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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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- improve the organisation of the setting by ensuring that a key-worker system is implemented and that there are robust procedures in place for checking that staff remain suitable to work with children
- ensure daily risk assessments are conducted to minimise the risk of children leaving the premises unsupervised and to ensure that un-vetted persons cannot gain access to the building, also ensure a record of prior injuries is kept and that these are countersigned by parents and carers
- improve the setting's ability to support children in being healthy by implementing a system for recording any medication given, ensuring that accidents are acknowledged by parents, and by clarifying the sick child policy to ensure sick children will not be accepted into the setting
- devise and make available to parents, a written statement on special needs which is consistent with current legislation and guidance. Ensure that this is understood and implemented by all staff
- ensure that all documentation is regularly reviewed, updated, and shared with parents, in particular: that the complaints policy is up to date and includes the correct contact details for the regulator; that the equal opportunities policy reflects current legislation; and that the lost and uncollected child policy is complete and comprehensive.

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