

# North Leigh Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 134445

**Inspection date** 02 November 2007

**Inspector** Jenny Read

**Setting Address** North Leigh C of E School, Park Road, North Leigh, Witney, Oxfordshire,  
OX29 6SS

**Telephone number** 01993 881525

**E-mail**

**Registered person** The Trustees of North Leigh Kids 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](http://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?

North Leigh Kids Club provides after school care for children within the Primary School in the village of North Leigh. The kids club operates in the school hall, connected craft area, library and has use of the school playgrounds, playing field and woodland area. Children attend from local schools.

A maximum of 16 children may attend the club at any one time. There are currently 25 children from four years on roll. The kids club opens each week day from 15:00 until 17:30 during school terms. The kids club, which is managed by a committee of parents and trustees and is a registered charity, employs two staff. The play leader holds the NVQ in Playwork at Level 3. Both staff have completed first aid and child protection training.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean hall where they learn about personal hygiene and how to care for themselves. Hygiene practices, such as consistent hand washing before meals, after using

the toilet and following art and craft activities, are well known by the children. This serves to reduce the risk of infection. Children display some awareness that germs make you poorly and understand regular exercise and fresh air helps to keep them healthy.

The children's health is protected because staff have a clear understanding about the treatment for minor injuries and ensure the contents of the first aid boxes are complete and written consent from parents for emergency treatment is available. Records are sufficiently maintained of any accidents that have occurred and although children administer their own inhalers when required these are not recorded on the available medication forms.

Children's fitness and physical development are actively encouraged through daily access to robust play in the outdoor areas or school hall. Children take part in self-initiated games, such as catch, piggy in the middle, skipping, football and basketball, and have lots of fun when playing skittles, dodge ball and tennis with the staff. This helps children develop key physical skills regarding agility, co-ordination, balance and control.

Children enjoy a rolling snack bar, independently finish off any food in their lunch boxes, and access the basket of fruit when they wish. A specific snack time during the session offers children the option of fresh fruit and a biscuit to help boost their energy at the end of the day. Cups and jugs of water and diluted squash are readily available on the table for children to help themselves to a drink when they are thirsty. This ensures children are kept well hydrated.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a spacious hall where good emphasis is given to making sure children are comfortable and they are able to choose where they wish to play. They use the large, cosy beanbags on arrival to the setting, relaxing and chilling out after the rigours of the school. Children confidently move between the two rooms, freely accessing creative activities or choosing from numerous games and resources which aid their enjoyment. The staff intermittently rotate the suitable play materials to provide different experiences. The children show a very good awareness of the range of resources available and confidently ask staff to find particular items to play with, such as knitting, Play Station, construction sets and dressing up.

Children's safety and security is given satisfactory priority. The main entrance is secure with a buzzer entry system. This prevents adults from entering the building unannounced, therefore safeguarding the children. The internal door keypad system is rarely activated meaning children can leave the hall area because the door is left ajar and rarely closed. However, staff are observant and supervise the children generally well to monitor any persons entering the hall or children leaving. Children understand that if they run around in the hall they have to take off their socks and shoes because staff discuss the boundaries for safe play with the children and give occasional explanations to help them begin to understand the consequences of their actions.

Daily tick sheet risk assessments are in place and highlight potential hazards to children. However, these have not been used since June and children have little involvement to increase their awareness of safety issues. Although children practise the escape plan each term, they show little knowledge of appropriate action to take when attending the club to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

Children are generally well protected from abuse and neglect as staff have attended appropriate child protection training and show reasonable awareness of the signs and indicators of abuse. They understand the line management process to follow and will refer to the detailed child protection policy and safeguarding children literature displayed on the clubs' notice board and store cupboard if any concerns arise.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff greet children warmly on arrival to the club, which helps them to settle well. The club is very child focused and actively promotes children's interests and decision-making skills. As a result, the children are happy and indicate they enjoy coming to the club. Staff ask the children each week what they would like to play with and skilfully run with their ideas for future activities, helping them feel a valued member of their club. The freedom of choice allows children to instigate their own play and socialise with their friends. For example, the younger and older children link well together when playing with the dressing up clothes, sharing and expressing their ideas, such as 'shall we do a fashion show?' and 'I can be the audience'. Children enjoy adult input into their play and readily ask staff to show them how to start their knitting.

Children spend their time purposefully, engrossed in their chosen activity. They are creative and explore using the paint in different ways using their fingers and brushes to design firework pictures, shaking their paintbrush to create a splatter affect and talking about the colours when making symmetrical patterns. Staff support the children well and show an innate awareness of when to join in their play and when to step back and observe. The children excitedly describe the broad range of interesting activities they enjoy doing that enable them to express their imagination, feelings and ideas. For example, they design models using clay and recyclable materials, make shapes using Mod Rock and play dough and makes glasses and a walking stick with the Connex construction set, exclaiming 'I'm an old lady' while shuffling around the hall.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are well met because staff value and support each child and know their character, likes and dislikes well. They work effectively with specific school staff to gain useful information about children's learning difficulties and/or disabilities. For example, employing the child's teaching assistant to work in the club promotes continuity of care and effectively supports their integration. Staff actively encourage children's role in organising and planning their play. This helps the children feel a strong sense of belonging and promotes an inclusive environment. Children access a small selection of resources, such as puppets and books that reflect positive images of other cultures, but seldom enjoy planned activities about the wider world.

Children are cheerful, enthusiastic and well behaved. They play co-operatively with little intervention from staff and respond positively to the staff's relaxed, calm and friendly approach. As a result, the children are respectful and thoughtful of others. Children take part in talking about the club rules for acceptable behaviour, consequently the atmosphere within the club is both tranquil and relaxed. Regular praise and encouragement during play readily promotes children's self-esteem and values their achievements.

Children benefit from the informal and friendly contact between their parents and staff. Parents value the abundant range of activities on offer to their children and praise how positive and hard working the staff are. Parents receive satisfactory information about the setting and activities it provides. The kid's club booklet, notice board articles and daily informal discussion with staff helps to keep parents sufficiently informed about their children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are made welcome and the premises organised to allow them to play freely in the club. The enthusiastic staff are highly committed and have a strong ethos about enabling the children to organise and plan their club. This child-centred approach ensures children's interests and individual needs are well met. As a result, the children are happy and have fun. Staff facilitate and support the children's play and use the indoor and outdoor space well to allow the children freedom to move during play. The setting meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

The operational plan is incomplete and ordered randomly. Although current staff are longstanding and have been in post for seven years, there are no recruitment procedures in place to ensure systems are robust. However, a clear and informative induction programme and useful job descriptions are available to ensure any new staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to promote children's health, safety and enjoyment. Policies and procedures are detailed, informative, and available to parents on request. Records and documentation for the efficient and safe management of the setting are in place and accurately maintained. Children's records are kept in a file in a lockable filing cabinet to maintain confidentiality. However, individual information is not easy to find as the file is muddled and children's details are mixed in with other Kids club information.

The staff are experienced in childcare and work effectively together. They liaise often with committee members and feel sufficiently supported by the board of trustees. The trustees monitor staff's continuing suitability through yearly appraisals and are keen for them to attend additional training to promote their professional development. Staff up-date their first aid and child protection training every three years to ensure they have sufficient knowledge to promote children's health and safeguard their welfare.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The last inspection recommended the provider developed the written statement on special needs to ensure it is consistent with current legislation and extended the complaints procedure to include contact details of the regulator. The provider has made steady progress to extend the statement on special needs. The complaints procedure is detailed and provides useful information to parents about the process to follow with any concerns and includes the contact details of the trustees and regulator.

## **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):

- take positive steps to promote children's safety within the setting with particular regards to the security of the internal doors, implementing the risk assessments and increasing children's awareness of appropriate action to take in the event of an emergency
- extend the operational plan to ensure procedures for appointing and vetting staff are in place and rigorous to safeguard children's welfare.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)