

Kingswood After School Scheme (Our Lady of Lourdes)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136013
Inspection date	03 March 2008
Inspector	Melissa Cox
Setting Address	Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, The Mazenod Parish Rooms, Court Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 9QB
Telephone number	0117 987 2027
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Registered person	Kingswood After School Scheme
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?

Kingswood After School Scheme opened in 1995. It operates from the main hall and associated areas of the Mazenod Centre, located in the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes School. Children from the school attend the scheme. The group is managed by a parent led committee.

The scheme opens five days a week during the school term. Sessions are from 15:20 until 18:00 hours. A maximum of 24 children can attend at any one time and the group currently have a total of 22 children on roll. The group currently supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Three full-time members of staff work with the children, of whom all have appropriate early years qualifications. The group is a member of Playlink, and receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is appropriately maintained. They are developing a clear awareness of their own personal hygiene as they follow daily routines and are encouraged by the staff to be independent. Children confidently go to the toilet unaided and understand why they must wash their hands after using the toilet, messy activities and before snack. Their understanding of maintaining healthy practices is supported by the staff, who offer timely reminders and role model good practice, which minimises the risk of cross-infection. The premises are clean and well maintained. Children are appropriately cared for in an emergency as all staff have a clear awareness of how to deal with any minor injuries and administering any agreed medication. Written permission for seeking treatment in an emergency is obtained at the start of children's placement and a clear sickness policy offers parents information about exclusion periods for children who are unwell, ensuring children are not placed at risk of infection and illness.

Children are encouraged and supported to be independent. Children are offered a variety of snacks which are freshly prepared, providing them with a balanced diet of nutritious food. Children eat their snacks together as this is recognised as a social time where they can talk to their friends and staff. Drinking water is available throughout the session so children are able to independently help themselves. Staff actively seek information about any individual dietary needs and ensure any food or drink provided is suitable for the children.

Children are effectively supported to develop a healthy lifestyle and physical skills. Activities are adapted age-appropriately for the wide age range of children who attend. They move with confidence and an awareness of personal safety throughout the premises. Regular use of small tools such as pencils, scissors, paint brushes and a variety of construction toys, help children develop their fine manipulative skills competently. Regular opportunities to play outdoors are planned and children enjoy playing group games such as football and badminton, as well as playing with hoops, balls, bean bags and a range of sports equipment. Indoors, children participate in parachute games, throwing and catching activities and negotiate obstacle courses.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from warm and welcoming premises. They have access to a good range of appropriate toys and resources that meet their developmental needs, which are clean and safe to use. Daily activities are suitably organised to enable children to make individual choices about their play and to allow children of different ages appropriate space to play and rest.

Children are cared for in a setting where risks are identified and minimised and all reasonable steps taken to ensure they are cared for in a secure environment. Children experience good levels of supervision and appropriate safety equipment is in place to ensure hazards are reduced. Staff are well deployed within the setting and the premises are kept secure whilst children are present. Regular checks ensure that safety aspects are always carefully considered and a clear risk assessment, site security and fire prevention strategy are also used to best effect in ensuring children can play safely and enjoy their time before and after school. A clear policy and procedure for lost or uncollected children is in place and understood by all staff.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of their responsibilities with regard to child protection procedures and have undertaken appropriate training. They are fully aware of possible signs and symptoms of children who may be at risk and of their responsibility to ensure the designated person is informed of any concerns. There is a clear child protection statement which is made available to parents. However, the policy does not fully reflect the changes to the local authority procedures from April 2006, with regard to the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well in the out of school care facility and have a friendly relationship with the staff, who create a happy environment in which children can play. They are encouraged to experience activities by staff who support them and encourage the less-confident children to enjoy their time at the setting. Children are aware of the range of activities they can engage in and often make suggestions or discuss ideas with staff, who effectively integrate these into the daily activity plans.

Children can access all the activities easily, helping them develop appropriate independence skills. They sit at the creative table and draw imaginative pictures, confidently using the glue, scissors and discuss what they are doing with each other and staff. Young children enjoy playing with the doll's house and respond well to the positive interaction from older children. There is plenty of space for children to move around and they move freely between the activities. Children are able to relax or play at the end of the school day according to their individual needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are respected and treated as individuals; they are welcomed and valued in the setting. They are confident and show a sense of belonging to the club. Staff use their expertise, have ongoing discussions and use information sheets completed by parents and carers, to ensure children's individual needs are met. Children develop their social skills and are encouraged to play together because the staff are good role models and praise all efforts to participate in activities. Their awareness of diversity is effectively raised through a good selection of appropriate activities and resources, such as books, puzzles, imaginative play equipment and dressing up clothes. This awareness is further developed through planned themes on different festivals of the world, such as Chinese New Year and Diwali. Increased support is available for children with specific needs and staff work effectively with parents and teachers to ensure children's needs are met appropriately. Children develop a strong sense of independence and self-worth as they are encouraged to share and take turns. They are well behaved as they accept the rules and respond to the firm and consistent expectations of the staff. Children are polite and use manners without prompting.

Staff form friendly relationships with parents as they exchange verbal information at the start and end of each session, keeping parents informed about what the children have been doing and the care they have received. Parents are provided with clear information about the club facilities through a notice board, newsletters and access to the policies and procedures. A clear complaints procedure is in place and made available for parents .

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The welfare, care and learning of the children is well promoted through the maintenance of records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision. Details kept of parents and children are stored securely and staff have a clear understanding of confidentiality issues. Notice boards containing information about registration and insurance cover reassures parents that their children are cared for appropriately. There is a sound recruitment policy in place, which ensures all staff who are employed are vetted for their suitability and undergo a sound induction process. Staff members are appropriately qualified and deployed to provide sufficient levels of support for the children attending. As a result, children are happy and relaxed within the environment and staff work well together to ensure their needs are met. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The group were asked to address the following issues at the last inspection, which include CRB checks being completed on all staff and that staff files are available for inspection by the regulator;

to develop staff knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and ensure policies and procedures are accurate and include the necessary detail.

The group now ensure that the necessary regulatory documents are kept on site and all staff have CRB checks. Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and access training regularly to keep them up-to-date. Documentation is regularly reviewed by the committee, comprehensive and meets the requirements of the National Standards.

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 good. 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 that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board

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