

The Den Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY287010
Inspection date 06 March 2008
Inspector Hazel Christine White

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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?

The Den, Out of School Club opened in 2004. It operates from classrooms within St Mary and St Margaret's C of E Primary School in Castle Bromwich, West Midlands. The club serves children who attend the school. Children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 42 children aged three to 11 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The club opens five days a week, during term time. Sessions are from 07:30 to 08:40 and from 15:30 to 17:45. The club supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs three staff, of whom two, including the manager, hold relevant level 3 qualifications in play work and early years. The assistant is currently working towards a level 2 qualification in play work. An additional volunteer worker is available on a flexible basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm and friendly environment. They are learning hand washing and hygiene routines and are independent in managing their personal care. Staff follow satisfactory hygiene procedures and a cleaner is employed for general cleaning at the end of each session. Appropriate measures are taken when children are ill so that health needs are adequately met. The manager holds a current first aid certificate and staff have a satisfactory knowledge of the procedure to follow should accidents occur. The first aid box is sufficiently stocked and readily available.

Children enjoy regular outdoor activities which promote their physical development. They make up their own games in the playground and use a sufficient range of equipment such as bats and balls. Children are developing an understanding of the importance of exercise and have a positive attitude towards being active.

Children are well nourished because they are provided with a satisfactory range of snacks and drinks. They have a choice of several breakfast cereals and toast in the morning and sandwiches, wraps and fruit after school. Their individual dietary needs are met because information is provided by parents. Children sit together at snack time which enables them to socialise and learn table manners. They recognise the need to take regular drinks and are offered water, juice or milk throughout the session.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are supervised at all times, however, in the event of a child being lost or not collected there is no clearly defined procedure to be followed. As a result, children's safety is compromised. Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure indoor and outdoor environment which is suitable for the purpose. Rooms are well ventilated, brightly decorated and adequately prepared before children arrive. Younger children are collected from their classrooms and others make their own way to the out of school club. Visitors report to the main reception and are issued with a visitors pass, therefore effective monitoring procedures are in place.

Although staff visually check that rooms are safe before children arrive, risk assessments have not been conducted, therefore, not all potential dangers have been identified which compromises children's safety. Children are encouraged to develop an understanding of their own safety through clear explanations from staff. They are sufficiently involved in rule making and know, for example, that they must look after toys and listen to instructions. Resources are in a satisfactory condition and most are easily accessible to the children which enables them to make independent choices.

There is a written fire procedure and practises of the fire drill take place periodically. As a result children and staff show an understanding of the evacuation procedure. Exit routes are clear, identifiable and easily opened from the inside. Fire detection equipment is checked and maintained in good working order.

Children are cared for by staff who are vetted and have relevant experience, knowledge and skills in childcare. However, children's welfare is not adequately safeguarded because although

the manager has a clear understanding of the types of abuse, current child protection procedures are unknown. Therefore, they cannot be put into practice when necessary. There is no local safeguarding children policy, or procedures to follow if allegations of professional abuse are made against staff. Consequently, children's welfare is compromised.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children become confident and happy in the club. They are greeted on arrival and are made to feel welcome. Children have formed friendships with one another and have a good rapport with staff. They quickly settle into their chosen activity and follow familiar routines. For example, hanging their coats up and putting their bags away before playing. Children gain independence and develop their self-esteem because they are encouraged to make their own choices and are frequently praised for their achievements. They play with a sufficient range of activities and play opportunities that enable them to have fun.

Children are sometimes asked for their suggestions regarding their play and can request specific activities which are not already out, therefore developing an understanding of decision making. Activities are not planned because staff prefer a flexible approach. They know children's likes and interests and ensure that these toys and activities are readily available. Opportunities for children to be creative and use their imagination are adequate. Children can dress up and make up their own games. They particularly enjoy designing patterns using 'hamma' beads. Children are encouraged to express their own ideas, for example, one child used the school colours and uniform to create a 'The Den' plaque from 'hamma' beads. He is very proud of his achievement and happy to tell adults his thought process.

Children are able to move freely between activities and choose whether they are active or need a quiet time. They enjoy outside play and organise ball games. Children involve adults in their conversations and appreciate their help and support when they play board games. They are able to continue with their extra curriculum activities after school, such as dancing and football.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Relationships with parents are friendly. Staff make parents welcome and ensure good verbal communication exists to keep them informed of their child's day. Parents are able to read through a pack of policies and procedures, however, these have not been updated and do not comply with the national standards or regulations. As a result, parents are unaware of the action that will be taken when a complaint or concern is raised.

Children's individual needs are known because parents are encouraged to share information about their personal requirements. They have equal access to all activities and facilities available to them. Children have close and trusting relationships with staff. There are sufficient resources which reflect positive images of cultures and traditions which help children to develop an understanding of the wider world and diversity. They are learning to respect their own and others cultures and beliefs through talking about some religious and cultural festivals that are acknowledged within the school. Appropriate action is taken to support children with learning disabilities and/or difficulties. Links with parents and the school promote consistency of care. Privacy is provided when intimate care is needed.

Children behave well and are sufficiently involved in developing group rules. For example, a child has handwritten the rules and they are displayed on the notice board. They include, use manners, look after toys and help new children settle in. They show an understanding of expected behaviour and are reminded of boundaries. Children respond positively when praised which raises their self-esteem. They are helped to resolve disagreements and encouraged to share and take turns.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Policies and procedures are not effective in protecting children and do not sufficiently promote children's good health, safety and welfare. Several policies are not in place and some records are not available for inspection. There is no effective system for updating children's records. The provider lacks knowledge and understanding of the need to notify the regulator of significant events. Consequently, the national standards and regulations are not complied with. This compromises children's safety and well-being.

Staff demonstrate a willingness to attend training courses to keep their knowledge and skills updated. Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming, friendly environment. The playroom is decorated with posters and pictures and space is sufficiently organised to enable children to experience play activities both indoors and outside. Children are cared for by staff who are experienced and skilled in play work. Recruitment and selection procedures for appointing staff are adequate. The provider has checked that all staff have been vetted and are suitable to work with children. Overall children's needs are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to develop a system of risk assessment and to review and improve written policies and procedures to ensure that they were sufficient for the effective and safe management of the provision. There has been no progress in developing a system of risk assessment or improving policies and procedures. Therefore, policies and procedures are not effective in protecting children and do not sufficiently promote children's good health, safety and welfare. As a result, these recommendations have been carried through as actions following this inspection.

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:

- develop and implement a clearly defined procedure to be followed in the event of a child being lost or not collected
- assess the risks to children in relation to all areas they use and take action to minimise these
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint and keep a record of complaints and any action taken
- develop and implement a child protection procedure which complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant matters
- ensure that records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, and to promote the welfare and care of children, are maintained.

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