

The Den @ St Mary's

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY283012
Inspection date	04 March 2008
Inspector	Dianne Lynn Sadler
Setting Address	St. Marys Catholic Primary School, Broadway, Derby, Derbyshire, DE22 1AU
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Registered person	Rebecca Anne Hall
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 @ St Mary's Out of School Club opened in 2004 and is privately owned. It operates from St. Mary's Catholic Primary School on Broadway in the city of Derby. A maximum of 45 children may attend the club at any one time. The out of school provision is open every weekday from 15.00 to 18.00 during term time and from 08.00 to 18.00 during school holidays. The children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 280 children aged from three to eleven years on roll. Children are collected by staff from surrounding schools and transported by the club to The Den. The club supports children with disabilities and/or learning difficulties and children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs ten members of staff. Of these, eight staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health is not promoted and the risk of cross-infection not minimised. Both the boys and girls toilets are not checked by staff to ensure they are clean and suitable to use. Therefore children are accessing dirty toilets that are not flushed, that are blocked and very smelly.

Staff follow other procedures that support children's well-being sufficiently well. For example, they wear aprons to serve children their tea and ensure children use antibacterial spray to clean their hands before they eat. Children are cared for adequately when they have an accident or become ill. Staff follow an appropriately written sick children's policy which is shared with parents and permission is sought to obtain emergency medical advice and treatment. This ensures children receive prompt first aid attention.

Children enjoy sociable mealtimes and are sufficiently well nourished. Their independence and self-esteem is fostered sufficiently well at this time as they spread jam on their buttered crumpets and sit to chat in small groups to their friends and adults. Foods are varied and mainly nutritious and healthy, with children benefiting from being offered fresh fruit such as apple. Children are well hydrated. They enjoy a drink of squash with their tea and access fresh drinking water from fountains within the school environment. The dietary needs of children are met appropriately because staff discuss their needs with parents which are then recorded.

Children have regular opportunities to be active and access fresh air. They benefit from accessing the outdoor play area at every session which offers different areas and benches to sit and chat. Children develop their physical skills appropriately by accessing resources such as ball games. In the holiday times children enjoy going swimming and visiting the local leisure centre where they enjoy playing on the trampolines. Children are also able to rest if they choose. They quietly read books on soft bean bags or complete their homework.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children's safety and welfare is significantly compromised because procedures to check the environment is safe for children to use are not effective. Although safety checks are carried out on the premises before each session children have access to hazards such as uncovered electric sockets, a metal hook on a pole that opens windows and blind cords have not been made safe. In addition, the supervision of children is not adequate. At times, children roam around the environment not always within the sight or hearing of staff and are not adequately supervised both indoors and outdoors due to poor ratios of adults to children.

Children are not protected from harm and their welfare is not promoted with regards to child protection. Staff follow an inadequate child protection policy which does not reflect recent legislation and does not include a procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation made against a member of staff.

Children use suitable and safe furniture, equipment and play resources, appropriate to meet their different needs. Their independence is actively promoted because resources are easily accessed, enabling them to make good choices and decisions. Children are learning how to

keep themselves safe by practising the emergency evacuation procedure every three months which is written appropriately.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is inadequate.

Children's care, learning and play is significantly compromised. The organisation of the environment and deployment of staff is inadequate and not all the play experiences are appropriate for the ages and interests of the children participating. For instance, young children are selected to listen to a story that is too complicated and not appropriate to their age. Therefore the individual needs of these children are not met appropriately. There is a strong emphasis on developing children's independence and only a creative activity is planned. Children are able to select resources for themselves and initiate their own play. However, some children who are not interested in the creative activity planned choose to roam around the environment going from area to area aimlessly. These children are not involved in purposeful play experiences.

Some children are developing positive relationships with both adults and each other. They select resources for themselves and sit playing interactive games such as dominoes and computer games. Other children enjoy participating in a planned creative activity. They enjoy making Easter cards cutting out chicks and decorating with collage materials. Some children talk enthusiastically about events in their day to staff who listen and respond appropriately to what they say. This helps children to gain confidence and good self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children's welfare is compromised because the club has not implemented an effective system to record all complaints made in line with regulations and therefore parents cannot access the information. Parents are notified of how to make a complaint as this policy along with all other policies and other information about the setting are displayed for parents on the notice board. Parents share information about children's care needs which are recorded appropriately. This helps to ensure children receive appropriate care consistent with home.

Clear, concise policies work effectively in practice to promote equal opportunities for all children. They enjoy positive relationships with the staff and with each other. Children feel a sense of belonging as they are greeted warmly by staff when they arrive. All children are fully included because staff acknowledge and value children's differences. The club provides suitable care for children who have disabilities and/or learning difficulties and children for whom English is an additional language. Staff understand the importance of working in partnership with parents and other professionals to promote the welfare and development of the child. Children are being made aware of the wider society. Staff ensure that the resources positively represent the children who attend as well as the wider world. Children also enjoy learning about all different festivals and celebrations. For instance, they create a dragon and lanterns out of collage materials for Chinese New year, which are displayed on the wall.

All children are learning to understand responsible behaviour. They are learning to take turns and share play resources. For instance, some children cooperate well with each other whilst playing a game of dominoes or using the computer. The behaviour policy is clearly written and effective in practice with staff managing children's behaviour appropriately.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children's safety and welfare is not protected. Inadequate recruitment and vetting procedures do not ensure that all staff present are suitable to look after children. Also, trainees under the age of 17 years are not supervised at all times. Due to ineffective contingency plans to cover staff's unexpected absences the adult to child ratios are at times inadequate and trainees care for children alone. In addition, staff that are present are not deployed effectively. This significantly compromises the safety, care, learning and play of all children present.

The level of qualified staff working with children is sufficient. Some records, policies and procedures are clear, concise and effective in practice. The registration system is sufficient and includes the times of children's arrival and departure, with parents signing to say they have collected their children. This contributes to children's safety. Documentation in place is available for inspection and most shared with parents.

Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the club agreed to ensure that the child protection procedures state what action to take if allegations are made against staff members or volunteers and that these are shared with parents. They also agreed to make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint and includes the contact details for Ofsted.

Although the child protection procedure has been reviewed and is available for parents, it still does not include the procedure to be followed if there is an allegation made against a member of staff or volunteer. This significantly compromises children's safety and welfare. Parents have access to a complaints policy displayed on the notice board which gives them the regulators details and explains the procedure if they have a complaint. This helps to protect children's safety and welfare.

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 the 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:

- ensure all areas of the premises are clean with specific regard to the toilets
- improve knowledge and understanding and ensure that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- ensure all hazards both indoors and outdoors are identified and minimised
- ensure children are supervised at all times
- keep a record of complaints relating to the national standards and any action taken
- ensure that there are effective procedures in place for checking that staff are suitable to work with children
- ensure trainees under 17 years of age are supervised at all times and not counted in the adult:child ratios
- ensure staffing ratios are maintained and staff are deployed effectively
- ensure contingency plans to cover emergencies and unexpected staff absences are effective
- plan and provide a suitable range of activities for children, which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs.

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