

GR8 Kids @ Stimpson

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY362624
Inspection date	16 July 2008
Inspector	Susan Marriott
Setting Address	Stimpson Avenue Primary School, Stimpson Avenue, NORTHAMPTON, NN1 4LR
Telephone number	07743 700697
E-mail	stimpson@gr8kids.co.uk
Registered person	Gr8 Kids Ltd
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The GR8 Kids @ Stimpson out of school club was registered in 2007. The setting is one of a privately owned group of four clubs and operates from within the Stimpson Avenue Primary School premises in Northampton. Children have access to the dining hall and school hall areas, toilet facilities and an outdoor play area. The setting operates out of school care, including holiday care for 32 children aged three to under eight years. Opening times are Monday to Friday, 08.00 to 09:00 and 15.15 to 18:00, term time only.

There are currently 38 children from four years to under eight years on roll. The children who attend come from Stimpson and Vernon Terrace schools. The club supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The group employs five staff. Of these, two hold early years qualifications. The number of staff on duty depends on the number of children booked into the group. The setting receives support from the local authority. The club is a member of Membership 4 Children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment where they begin to learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through the consistent daily routines. They stay healthy because the staff encourage them to follow clear procedures to prevent the spread of infection. For example, children wash their hands before snack time. Children receive appropriate treatment in the case of medical emergency because the manager and her deputy retain a suitable qualification in first aid. The first aid box is adequately stocked and there are generally clear and effective procedures for recording accidents and medication. However, medication records do not maintain confidentiality and there is no clear policy relating to children who are ill or infectious. Children are able to rest according to their needs at the end of the day in a quiet space created by placing blankets on the floor.

Children can choose to play indoors or outdoors because staff deploy themselves accordingly. They enjoy regular opportunities to run off their energy in the school playground. Children enjoy play with small apparatus such as bats and balls and may choose to participate in more organised team games such as 'tug of war'. These activities help children to develop their self-confidence and contribute to their good health and physical development.

Children are provided with sufficient food for their needs without spoiling their appetite for a meal when they get home. The staff work hard to take account of children's requests and provide a varied range of snacks that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs. For example, a range of hot and cold snacks, cold meats, cheese, fruit and salad vegetables. Cold drinks and water are freely available so that children do not become thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally safe, secure and confident in the club environment. Staff prepare the environment as best they can to make the premises warm and welcoming for children and their parents. Staff have mostly identified and minimised risks on the premises for children. For example, staff carry out and record a daily premises check and fire drill practice is sufficiently frequent to secure the safety of children and staff. Staff have a secure knowledge of the club's safety procedures for collecting children from schools which they put into practice effectively. This ensures children's safety from school to the club and whilst playing indoors and outside. They are closely supervised as they play and are reminded of safety boundaries such as, not running inside.

Children use a reasonable range of safe play resources which are age-appropriate. Resources are set out for children each day and additional items accessed for children on request. Staff have a clear understanding of the procedures to follow if they have concerns relating to child protection and some staff members have attended child protection training. This ensures that children's welfare is generally safeguarded. However, procedures are not shared appropriately with parents, in line with requirements.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are enthusiastic and comfortable within the friendly and welcoming environment of the setting. They know the daily routine well and this helps to make them feel confident and secure. For example, they know to hang up their coats and put their belongings safely away before choosing where to play. Children spend their time purposefully. They relate well to each other and enjoy the company of other children and staff. There is a varied range of resources and activities which are used effectively to interest children and develop their learning. Children take part in organised games, races, football and hockey. They enjoy making camps, dressing up and playing catch with water balloons. Children play darts, make hama bead pictures and explore with magnets.

Plans of activities and play opportunities offered to the children demonstrate the wide range on offer. Children are very well supported by the staff who take an active role in their sessions at the club and encourage them to extend their experiences by listening and talking to them. A display of children's work and photographs shows a visit by the local police and children having fun exploring the police car and trying on police helmets. Children have made posters to remind all to 'lock everything to be safe please' and to 'run, tell and yell' if confronted by strangers. Children's concentration is good, they stay focussed on their chosen activities and respond excitedly to the challenges set. They happily participate in quizzes, puzzles and brain teaser games and enjoy the competition with other children of all ages.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time in this out of school club. They share relaxed relationships with staff and each other and feel secure with everyday routines. They develop self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and make choices and decisions. For example, children place their notes of ideas for activities or improvements in the club in the suggestions box. Children readily chatter to the staff whilst they play and staff always make time to listen to groups or individuals. Staff plan some activities to promote a positive view of the wider society and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others.

Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are integrated within the group and staff do their best to support when required. However, the written policy for special educational needs is combined with that for equal opportunities and inclusion. It does not meet legislative requirements and does not provide clear guidance to staff. Children are well behaved. They know what is expected of them and respond well to the regular praise and support offered by staff. Staff respond positively to children's needs by providing suitable activities that encourage good behaviour. For example, children are taken outside or provided with physical activities to run off surplus energy after a busy day at school.

Relationships with parents are friendly and staff make parents welcome, but information is not always shared appropriately to promote a fully effective working partnership. Parents and carers cannot easily access policies and procedures which underpin the operation of the business. Any incidents relating to individual children are discussed with parents but these are not recorded to secure children's welfare. Staff direct enquirers to the club website, but this provides basic daily routine information only.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Generally positive outcomes are promoted for children through sufficient organisation of the setting. The staff team work effectively to promote children's health, enjoyment and achievement at the club. The children obviously feel at home and at ease in the club environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play. Planning is essentially flexible and promotes children's care and development.

Relevant checks are carried out on staff to ensure they are suitable to have regular contact with children and sufficient staff are suitably qualified or experienced. A suitable registration system works in practice. This ensures children's welfare, care and safety are promoted. Children benefit from the well-organised space, staff and resources. Rooms are generally set out with activities children are interested in. They can choose which area to play in and staff are deployed effectively. Risk assessment paperwork is useful and manageable. This enables appropriate care to be given in a generally safe environment.

Most records, policies and procedures that promote children's care and welfare are in place. However, there is not a clear policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious which is discussed with parents. The system for recording the administration of medication does not maintain confidentiality. The policy relating to special educational needs and equal opportunities does not fully comply with legislation. Potentially, this compromises children's welfare and care. The setting has not informed the regulator of significant events since registration. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- devise a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious which is discussed with parents and includes a procedure for contacting parents or another adult designated by the parent if a child becomes ill while in the provision
- improve the information available for parents and methods of sharing that information. Ensure that confidentiality is maintained at all times
- revise the policies in relation to equal opportunities and special educational needs to ensure that they comply with current legislation and guidelines
- ensure that Ofsted is notified of any significant events.

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