

Delaware Kids Activity Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	103011
Inspection date	04 June 2008
Inspector	Julie Wright
Setting Address	Delaware CP School, Drakewalls, Gunnislake, Cornwall, PL18 9EN
Telephone number	01822 835837
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Registered person	Delaware Kids Activity 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.

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?

Delaware Kids Activity Club has been registered since 2001. It operates from Delaware Primary school which is situated in the village of Drakewalls. Children attending the out of school provision are from a wide area, although the majority of children attend the school. The setting is managed by a committee of parents and governors.

The setting is registered to provide care for 30 children aged from four-years-old to under eight-years-old. There are currently over 100 children on roll aged between four and 11-years-old. Children attend a variety of sessions each week, some using the provision occasionally. Staff support children who have learning difficulties/disabilities. The group opens five days a week during school term time and school holidays, except Bank Holidays. Sessions are from 07.45 to 08.45 and from 15.15 to 17.45 in term time, and in the holidays opening times are 07.45 to 17.45.

The setting employs five child-care workers. The manager holds a Level 6 qualification, one holds a Level 5 qualification, two hold a Level 2, one of whom is also studying for a Level 3, and one member of staff is currently studying for a Level 2. The setting is a member of 4Kids and receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted through the implementation of suitable policies and procedures. Children are competent in their personal care and follow appropriate hygiene routines. Accident and medication details are maintained in order and most staff hold a current first aid qualification.

Children benefit from the provision of healthy snacks at the breakfast and after school clubs. These include cereals, fresh fruits and savoury options. Food is prepared in the school canteen and one member of the care staff has a food hygiene certificate. In the school holidays children bring a packed lunch from home. Individual dietary requirements are discussed and noted on the children's details.

Children take part in various activities which promote physical skills and coordination. For example, they enjoy sports games, such as football and tennis, outside. They have use of the school hall if weather restricts outdoor play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are familiar with the setting and the routines. They move around with confidence, choosing where they want to play and what they would like to do. The room is suitably prepared and staff provide age-appropriate resources and activities to suit the children attending. Appropriate arrangements are in place for the maintenance of toys, equipment and the premises.

Daily checks are undertaken to ensure safety for the children. They become aware of fire safety as they take part in regular fire drills in school hours and occasionally during the out of school activities. Suitable health and safety policies are in place and staff supervise the children well.

Children's welfare is appropriately safeguarded. Staff are aware of the procedures to protect children and have relevant up to date information. Parents are informed of the safeguarding policy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy as they arrive and quickly engage in the activities. They have good relationships with staff and each other. Basic play plans are in place as a guide for staff, who also encourage children to take the lead in play. For example, children's ideas are responded to during imaginative and creative play. Children show confidence as they play independently and choose what they want to do. They are cooperative and constructive in their activities. Staff provide a good balance of support to children, providing plenty of free play opportunities. They ensure that the emphasis is on play and relaxation for children during the out of school care sessions. Staff respond to children's personal requests, such as for help with school work.

A variety of activities is available at each session which promotes areas of development and interest. Children enjoy outdoor play on a regular basis and willingly take part in table games. They benefit from the social opportunities, for example, playing card games together. Electronic

games are popular and appropriately time limited, which ensures that children are involved in a range of activities. Children play imaginatively with their friends and also involve the staff. For instance, in the role play area they use the resources well as they pretend to make meals and drinks for the staff. A number of children enjoy looking at books by themselves or having a story read as a quiet time. Children have fun as they join in favourite games, such as 'Hide and Seek'.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff implement suitable equal opportunities and special needs policies which promote inclusion. They seek additional information as required to support the individual needs of children. Themes and activities from school are sometimes extended in the out of school club. For example, as children learn about different cultures and celebrations.

Children are well behaved in the club and respond positively to staff. They understand the rules and expectations of behaviour, which are displayed on the wall. Children are encouraged to be polite, to share and to have respect. Staff have age-appropriate strategies to manage behaviour and promote self-esteem.

Staff have positive working relationships with parents. They provide relevant details about the setting and have regular discussions. The school newsletter includes information about the out of school club. Parents value the provision and provide positive feedback on the quality of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for by a suitably qualified and consistent staff team. Robust vetting and recruitment procedures are in place to ensure that children are cared for by suitable persons. Committee members and staff have clear roles and responsibilities. The activity club provides children with a safe and stimulating environment for out of school care.

Staff work well together and since the last inspection have named one designated key person for all the children. However, this key worker system is limited in purpose and effectiveness. Staff appraisals identify training needs and encourage development. At team meetings staff have informal discussions and plan for the following term. They understand and meet the requirements of the National Standards, although the procedures to monitor and evaluate the provision are minimal. Records and documentation are maintained in satisfactory order, which contributes to the welfare of the children.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the quality of care was judged to be inadequate. The provider was asked to: improve the organisation of the setting by ensuring that a key-worker system is implemented and that there are robust procedures in place for checking that staff remain suitable to work with children; ensure daily risk assessments are conducted to minimise the risk of children leaving the premises unsupervised; ensure that un-vetted persons cannot gain access to the building; ensure a record of prior injuries is kept and that these are countersigned by parents

and carers; improve the setting's ability to support children in being healthy by implementing a system for recording any medication given, ensuring that accidents are acknowledged by parents, and by clarifying the sick child policy to ensure sick children will not be accepted into the setting; devise and make available to parents, a written statement on special needs which is consistent with current legislation and guidance and ensure that this is understood and implemented by all staff; and ensure that all documentation is regularly reviewed, updated, and shared with parents, in particular: that the complaints policy is up to date and includes the correct contact details for the regulator; that the equal opportunities policy reflects current legislation; and that the lost and uncollected child policy is complete and comprehensive.

Since then a key worker system has been implemented, although a further recommendation is made in relation to this. Appropriate procedures are now in place to ensure suitability of staff. Suitable risk assessments are conducted and the premises are secure. Policies and procedures in respect of medication, accidents and sickness are in place and sufficiently promote children's health. Equal Opportunities and Special Needs policies reflect current legislation and guidance. All policies and procedures have been reviewed, updated and are shared with parents. These actions result in improvements to the health, safety and welfare of children.

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):

- develop the procedures to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the provision, including improvement to the key worker system.

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