

Marmalade and Monkeys Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY360801
Inspection date	21 May 2008
Inspector	Pamela Edna Friling
Setting Address	The Lodge, Blakeney Primary School, Blakeney, Gloucestershire, GL15 4EB
Telephone number	01594 510270
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Registered person	Room To Grow
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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?

Marmalade and Monkeys was registered in 2007. The club operates from Blakeney Primary School. The club uses a detached lodge situated in the playground. The lodge offers a large playroom with cloakroom, kitchen and toilet facilities. Children have an enclosed outdoor play area adjacent to the building. Children are able to use the extended school grounds, including the playground, playing fields and adventure playground area. The club operates before school from 08.00 until 08.45 and after school from 15.15 until 17.30, during term times. The club also offers some planned activities during school holiday time. The club is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children at any one time. At present there are 30 children on roll.

The club is managed by a voluntary committee. The committee employs six staff to work with the children. Two staff are working towards play work qualifications at level three. Of the remaining staff, two hold qualifications at level two or above.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

The good health of some children attending the club is compromised through incomplete records detailing any existing allergies or medical conditions. Without clear information, inappropriate or dangerous food options or medical treatment may be provided to the children. In addition, parental consent for emergency medical attention or advice has not been requested or recorded for all children. Clear records are maintained of any accidents that have occurred and these are shared appropriately with parents. The system for recording medication administered has been set up, but not yet used as no medication has been administered by staff.

Children are cared for in a clean, bright and comfortable building. Children use good facilities for hand washing as they learn about personal hygiene and how to care for themselves. Children learn to appreciate healthy food through provision of a range of chopped fruit served for tea, from which the children make individual choices. Children are kept adequately hydrated through access to drinks at snack time and on request from staff. However, children's independence is not encouraged as they are not able to help themselves to drinks when they feel thirsty throughout the session.

Children's fitness and physical development are encouraged through daily access to robust play in the adjacent secure play area and in the extended school grounds. Children take part in self initiated football games and enjoy riding scooters. Climbing skills are further developed when children use the school adventure area.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Assessment of risks at the premises has not yet been formally conducted. Children are cared for at premises which, at the time of this inspection, were insufficiently secure to prevent access by unauthorised adults. The main entrance door is suitably alarmed to alert staff to children entering or leaving the building or the arrival of parents to collect children. Staff have a good view of approaching adults. However, there is no way of securing the premises if an unknown adult approaches the building. During school hours a television monitoring system is in operation, ensuring visitors to the building are observed. However, during some hours of operation for the club, for example, during late evening or school holidays, the monitoring system does not provide security to the group as there is no one to oversee the system.

The routine for arrival at the club promotes children's safety. For example, most children are collected by staff to ensure their safe arrival at the club. Children's late arrival at the club following school clubs is carefully monitored. However, the club do not have a required procedure to follow in the event of a child not being collected at the end of a club session.

The premises are spacious, clean and welcoming. Play resources are of satisfactory quality. They are safe and suitable for the children's age and stage of development. Storage methods encourage children's independent access to the full range of toys on offer. Draws and boxes are made of clear plastic to aid independent choice. Children show awareness of their own safety and confidently describe established boundaries for safe play, both inside the premises

and when using the extended school outdoor areas. Staff are well deployed to support and supervise children as they play.

Children are protected by staff who demonstrate a sound knowledge of child protection procedures and who to contact if concerned about a child in their care. Close liaison with the school further safeguards children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well on arrival at the club. Established routines ensure children feel secure. They enjoy a satisfactory range of activities, with opportunities to choose their own play items or join in with staff directed craft activities. For example, children enjoy designing and decorating a variety of types of candle. Great concentration and perseverance is shown as children layer coloured wax into small glasses, roll sheets of wax to make tall candles and cut shapes from colourful wax sheets to attach to candles. Staff offer good support, praise and encouragement to all children. Finished results are carefully packaged and children show pride in their achievements. Children share well as they complete the task and as they move on to their chosen play activity.

Children are encouraged to initiate their own play. They can independently access a satisfactory range of play resources. Children make the choice of their play environment as they choose to play either in the premises or the outdoor play area. They instigate football games, with staff joining in as requested. Scooters are shared, with both staff and children exchanging ideas and skills in attempting to repair a broken scooter. Children confidently describe what they enjoy about their club, with socialising with their friends and playing outside cited as the main reasons for their enjoyment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well behaved, polite and cooperative in response to clear boundaries for acceptable behaviour and the calm attitude of the staff. Children share well with each other. They are familiar with the daily routines and secure in the familiar school environment.

Children benefit from the satisfactory partnership that the staff develop with their parents. A range of written information is provided for parents, including policy information and notice board articles linked to planned activities. Parents are offered good information about the club and any forthcoming planned activities through the weekly school newsletter. Planned workshop activities encourage children to attend for specific sessions that interest them. Information is requested from parents regarding their children. However, some required information, including parental contact details and written permissions, has not been obtained for all children.

Children's awareness of culture, race and disability are extended through a limited range of suitable books and play materials. Children's individual character, likes and dislikes are well known to the staff. All children have equal access to resources and activities with good levels of staff support to ensure children are fully included.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children's attendance registers meet regulatory requirements and are easily available. However, individual records for some children are incomplete and do not meet regulations. This compromises children's safety and good health as staff do not have details of who to contact in an emergency, information on any special diets, allergies or medical conditions or parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Incomplete forms and any resulting delay in contacting parents or seeking medical attention seriously compromise children's well-being. The club has a clear complaints procedure within the club policy document. However, there is no complaints log in place as required by regulations. In addition, the club do not have a clear written procedure for actions they would take in the event of a child not being collected from the club. The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Children are made welcome and the premises organised to allow them to play freely in the club room and adjacent outdoor area. The ratio of adults to children is maintained at a superior level so allowing children good levels of individual attention. Children make adequate use of the resources available to them. Outside space is used well to allow children freedom to move during active play. Risk assessment of the premises has not been undertaken and, consequently, security issues with the entrance door have not been identified.

Staff work well together with well defined roles and responsibilities. The requirement for the playleader to hold a level three qualification has still not been met. However, an action plan has been submitted and approved by Ofsted as to how this requirement will be met. Staff are, at present, undertaking training to achieve the required qualification level.

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 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:

- obtain information regarding any specific medical conditions and allergies for each child and request parental permission to seek emergency medical attention or advice
- ensure the premises are able to be sufficiently secured to prevent access by unauthorised adults
- take positive steps to promote safety at the setting by conducting assessment of risks
- create a statement of the procedures to be followed in the event of a child not being collected from the provision
- devise and implement a system for the recording of complaints made by parents
- maintain accurate records of the name, home address and date of birth of each child who is looked after on the premises along with the name, home address and telephone number of a parent.

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