

Cherry Tree Kids Club (St. Stephens RC Primary School)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY370795
Inspection date	15/10/2008
Inspector	Christine Lynne Hodge
Setting address	St. Stephens RC Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, WELLING, Kent, DA16 3QG
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Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the setting

Cherry Tree Kids Club (St Stephens) is privately owned and operates from St Stephens School in Welling, Kent. It has use of two rooms in the new art block and the fully enclosed outside play area. The club was originally registered in 2007 and re-registered as a limited company in 2008. The opening hours are from 07:45 to 09:00 and from 15.15 to 18.00 during term times. All children attending are from St Stephens School. The provision is on the Early Years Register and both Compulsory and Voluntary parts of the Childcare Register as children up to the age of 11 years also attend. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but does include the provider's confirmation of compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register.

The club is registered for care for a maximum of 32 children under eight years at any one time. There are currently 74 children on roll. A team of eight staff, of whom four hold an appropriate childcare qualification, are employed to work with the children.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The out of school club does not effectively promote the learning and development of younger children as staff have insufficient knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Systems are not in place to ensure that activities are purposefully planned to cover the six areas of learning or to plan for children's next steps in their learning. Although staff develop friendly relationships with parents there are no procedures in place to involve them in their children's learning. The provider has been unable to access the self evaluation form on line but has identified several key areas of weakness and has drawn up an action plan. However, plans for improvement are not currently reflecting in practice. Staff ensure that children's health and welfare is well promoted.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- ensure that appropriate systems are in place to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage which include effective procedures for planning, observation and assessment (the early learning goals) 31/03/2009
- devise a written procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents which includes details of Ofsted (Documentation -also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 14/11/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

At the time of inspection the provider was not aware of the need to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage in the out of school club. Consequently, the manager and staff have not attended training on the EYFS and there are no systems in place for planning, observation and assessment to ensure children's individual needs are met and the next steps in their learning are identified. Although parents are made to feel welcome, they are not involved in their children's learning as only basic information is asked for on child record forms.

Although the setting has no formal system in place for evaluation the provider is committed to improving and has drawn up an action plan to ensure that the EYFS is fully implemented. This includes training for staff, stronger partnerships with parents and with teachers in the school and devising a system for assessment and planning. Rigorous recruitment procedures together with effective safeguarding policies ensure that children are suitably protected even though staff have not attended any recent child protection training. Most required documentation is in place except for a written complaints procedure which is also a requirement for both parts of the Childcare Register.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Adults working directly with the children have insufficient knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage to support the learning and development of young children. The lack of planning, observation and assessment means that activities are not based on children's individual development and needs.

The out of school club environment, although safe, is very sterile as staff are unable to display children's work or any posters or pictures on the walls. There is no provision for younger children who are tired or who need to rest or who just wish sit quietly. The club has a wide range of resources, which are stored in a shed and include a variety of table toys, various games and construction resources, a poor selection of books, creative activities, play dough, snooker and table football. However, children have limited opportunities to self select as staff choose activities which are set out daily before children arrive. At snack time children are encouraged to choose from a range of healthy options and develop their self help skills by making their own sandwiches and pouring out their own drinks. Children have good opportunities to play outside in the fresh air and take part in a range of physical activities.

Staff develop good relationships with children and join in activities to support their learning. For example by talking to them and using phonics to help with spelling. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are supported by a one to one carer if necessary. Adults act as good role models and provide children with lots of praise and encouragement to promote their self esteem. As a result children are happy, confident and well behaved.

Regular recorded risk assessments are carried out by staff to minimise risk and ensure that children are kept safe. Children are very clear about how to use equipment safely and how to play safely outside. Staff have a clear understanding of how to implement the safeguarding policy appropriately.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	4
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	4
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	4

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (procedures for dealing with complaints) 14/11/2008

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (procedures for dealing with complaints) 14/11/2008

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action.

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.