

The A-Z Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY331478
Inspection date	03/12/2008
Inspector	Gill Bosschaert

Setting address	Devonshire Primary School, Devonshire Avenue, SUTTON, Surrey, SM2 5JL
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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

The A-Z Club opened in March 2006. It provides a breakfast club and after school care for children who attend Devonshire Primary School. It is run by a committee and operates from the infant hall at Devonshire Primary School.

The club is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. It is registered to provide care for a maximum of 26 children under eight years at any one time, although children up to the age of eleven are also welcome to attend. There are currently 40 children, aged from four to eleven, on roll, only two of whom are in the early years age group. The club supports children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

The club is open each weekday during term time only, from 8.00 until school starts at 9.00 and from 15.00 until 18.00. All children share access to a secure, enclosed play area. The club employs five staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The A-Z Club makes good provision for children in the early years age group both before and after school. The excellent range of toys and games to support engaging activities indoors and outside enables children to enjoy their time at the club. They make good progress in developing a wide range of skills that support their future economic well-being. Relationships are very secure between the staff, the children and their parents. All policies and procedures are in place to ensure that children are safeguarded and secure.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- encourage the children to clear the dishes at the end of both morning and evening meals to develop social skills and independence
- ensure that any new staff have access to the new EYFS training
- align the setting's behaviour policy with that of the school

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The leader is well qualified and passionately enthusiastic about her role and all this entails. She has implemented all changes required from the last inspection, for example, one member of staff now holds a Fire Certificate. She has ensured that all safeguarding procedures are in place while at the same time giving children space to grow in independence. Meticulous records are kept for all the legal requirements. Self-evaluation is good. Through guidance and support, the leader

has successfully developed the skills of all the staff. She is actively seeking out courses to provide the highest possible opportunities for both the children's development and that of the staff. However, at present, not all staff have had training in the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) arrangements. Resources are used well and easily available to children, allowing them freedom of choice and growing autonomy. The provision for safeguarding is excellent. The setting carries out all checks, including those to ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. All relevant policies are in place and displayed on a table with other useful information, for example, leaflets on the different tax credits available. The outstanding partnership with parents is demonstrated by how they are warmly greeted and encouraged to see what their child has been doing in the sessions. Parents are provided with good quality information about the provision offered and a pamphlet illustrating the opportunities available to children at the club has been produced. The staff are friendly and welcoming to visitors and parents. Outdoor activities are supervised well.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The A-Z club offers good provision for the early years children in its care. Adults join in and play alongside the children during the sessions. They continually encourage children's language development by extending sentences or asking open questions. New resources are frequently bought or hired. A popular, very colourful, large tent with large beanbags for comfort was a recent purchase. This offers a quiet area for children to read books or have stories read to them, sometimes by older children. A good selection of books is available, including some suitable for children in the early years age group. There are designated nights for cookery, and art and crafts are a daily feature. All these make the provision more interesting and develop children's understanding across a wide range of topics. Children can also initiate their own activities, including computer or video games. They have access to both quiet activities and more vigorous play, both inside and outside. Vigilant staff respond quickly to any potential problem by successfully diverting children to different activities or by talking quietly to them. However, they seldom take this opportunity to bring the rules on display to the children's attention.

Good systems are in place to promote hygiene. A new kitchen has been built for the school to which the club has access. All children wash their hands before they have their cooked meal, which is provided by the club daily. Staff ensure that all areas of the premises are clean at all times, but especially before and after meals and at the end of the session. Menus for the week are displayed at child height and used by the children. To ensure the school's healthy eating programme is adhered to by the club, fruit and yoghurt are offered daily, both before and after school, alongside a cereal breakfast and a hot evening snack. All the children, regardless of age, are encouraged to pour out water, and small jugs have been introduced for the younger children to be able to pour water and milk. However, opportunities are missed to further develop good social skills by laying the table and clearing away afterwards. Water is available throughout the session. The children are extremely well behaved at all times, due very much to the positive approach of staff. However, the behaviour policy is not aligned with that of the

school. This could have the potential to confuse children, as the school's 'Golden Rules' are displayed in the hall but are not drawn to their attention. Children benefit from the very positive help they always receive from members of staff, who dedicate their time to supporting the children in their play, if children want this. As a result, children eagerly ask staff to play games with them. They delight in challenging staff to football games, volleyball with a balloon, snooker, and board games like Ludo or Snakes and Ladders, which develop mathematical concepts. Children happily play in both small groups and individually. Dark evenings are made exciting by the provision of torches to use while running around the playground, which is very secure and free of hazards. The many photographs displayed show the wide variety of activities offered during the term. The club is a happy, safe and secure place, as is shown by the long waiting list of parents wanting their children to attend.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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: Met

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

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.