

The Lighthouse Club @ St James the Great

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	107583
Inspection date	18/05/2009
Inspector	Alan Jarvis
Setting address	St James the Great School, Peckham Road, London, SE15 5LP
Telephone number	020 7701 7230
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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 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 Lighthouse Club @St James the Great is one of three clubs privately owned by the Lighthouse Children's Foundation. It was registered in 1998 and the childcare provision operates from the St James the Great Primary School, located in London SE15. A maximum of 40 children may attend the club at any one time. The Lighthouse Club is open from 13:30 to 18:15 each weekday. Currently there are 28 children on roll aged from five to eight years. Of these, six are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The care provided to children over five years old is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities and also supports those who speak English as an additional language. The setting employs five members of staff. Of these the acting manager has a level 4 qualification, and one member of staff a level 3 qualification. One is working towards a level 3 qualification and one has a general childcare qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children are happy and settled at the club which offers an inclusive and friendly welcome to children and their parents. Teaching and the children's welfare are satisfactorily promoted and, as a result, children make sound progress. The steps taken to tackle the recommendations of the last inspection and plans for further improvement demonstrate a satisfactory capacity for further improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- implement the planned training so that all staff fully understand the setting's policies and procedures and requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- strengthen the curriculum by providing challenging activities that ensure all areas of the EYFS are covered and in order to quicken children's learning

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The manager and committee have demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement since the last inspection. For example, minimum staff levels have been increased, the club is now carpeted, which provides a more hygienic environment, and a wider range of learning activities have been provided. The setting has a sound understanding of its strengths and where further improvements are needed through its own periodic reviews.

All policies and procedures required for the safe and efficient management of the setting, and to meet the needs of young children, are in place and contain the

required information. Some new staff have recently joined the setting. The manager has rightly recognised that not all staff have sufficient knowledge of all the policies and procedures, and further training is required. Similarly, training about the Early Years Foundation Stage is required because at the moment some staff are unsure of how to provide challenging activities for all children. This slows their progress.

Risk assessments are conducted and regularly reviewed so that children are cared for in a safe environment. For example, the room is carefully checked before children enter to ensure there are no hazards, security gates are locked and any toys that might be broken are either repaired or removed. Children are supervised well at all times. Occasionally they go for outings and here too any potential risks are identified so that their safety can be assured. Rigorous checks are made on the suitability of adults to work in the setting.

Parents are happy with the club and the safe environment it offers. There are warm and supportive relationships between the manager, other staff and parents. A notice board situated in the entrance provides parents with a range of useful information. However, some policies, such as that on the curriculum, are not written in clear terms for parents. This restricts parents' ability to fully support their child's learning at home. The club has a satisfactory working relationship with the two schools children attend. It makes good use of the school hall and equipment for the varied activities it provides and the spacious playground is used for outdoor play.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Relationships are positive and consequently, the children are at ease in the club and enjoy the varied activities that are on offer. Routines are well established and respected by the children. Over time the planned activities cover all areas of learning for young children. Typically, time is set aside for a good homework session' which often focuses on basic skills, whilst at other times there are plenty of opportunities for art and craft activities, creative writing, board games and cookery sessions. Staff observe how well children do in each activity and use the information to provide interesting and varied activities.

Children's health is promoted through regular outdoor play. Children develop their skills through activities such as football, and using the climbing frame. These enable them to make satisfactory progress in their physical development. Their personal, social and emotional development is particularly well developed. This results from the good steps taken to integrate children into the club and give them lots of praise and encouragement. Children enjoy the healthy snacks they are given. They pour their own drinks and make their own sandwiches which encourages both their independence and highlights the need to wash their hands before doing so. However, the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum has insufficient opportunities for children to learn through role play and computers which limits children's progress and enjoyment of the club.

Children are confident and well behaved in the club. They play and learn happily

alongside older children who they see as friends. Staff support them well and give them lots of help and encouragement. They help develop children's social and language skills by providing lots of opportunities for speaking and listening. Children cooperate well with each other and confidently work independently on some tasks. They are learning to keep themselves safe and understand how the setting works. For example, they know they must ask staff if they wish to use certain parts of the school playground. Staff keep a watchful eye on them when they are leaning and are developing a clear picture of what each child is capable of and where they need support. Recently, children in the Early Years Foundation Stage have been allocated a key worker. Whilst this is helping to promote the children's welfare and provides focused support for each child, it is too early to see the full impact on the children's learning.

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?	3
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?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
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?	3
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?	3
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?	3

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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