

The Den

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY360482
Inspection date 02/07/2009
Inspector John Dunne

Setting address St. Lukes Catholic Primary School, The Willows,
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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 Den is one of three out of school clubs run by a private provider. It was registered in 2007 and operates from the main school hall, the Year 1, 5 and 6 classrooms situated within St. Luke's Catholic Primary School in Frodsham, Cheshire. The setting is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register and is open each weekday from 07.30 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 18.00 during term time, plus 07.30 to 18.00 during school holidays.

There are currently 150 children aged from three to eight years on roll. A maximum of 40 children may attend the club at any one time. Children come from the local and surrounding areas of Frodsham. The club supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities. A total of 10 staff work with the children. Of these six have childcare qualifications to NVQ level 3, one to NVQ level 2 and other have experience of early years settings.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of provision is inadequate. The setting does not meet all of children's safeguarding, welfare and learning needs. Children enjoy the opportunity to relax before and after their day at school in an inclusive setting and enjoy a range of recreational activities and healthy snacks. However, staff have limited knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and children do not make adequate progress. The setting does not ensure that appropriately qualified staff with appropriate safeguarding checks are in charge of children. Additionally, lack of appropriate supervision and attention to safety also poses safety hazards and does not meet with statutory requirements.

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:

- plan and organise systems to ensure that every child receives an enjoyable and challenging learning and development experience that is tailored to meet their individual needs (Organisation) 01/09/2009
- ensure staff have a clear understanding of how to share information about children's progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage with parents (Assessment arrangements) 01/09/2009
- ensure that all staff who work with children are suitable to do so (Suitable people) (also applies to 07/07/2009

compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register)

- ensure that all children are appropriately supervised in a safety monitored environment (Suitable premises, environment and equipment)
- ensure that there are sufficient numbers of suitably qualified staff on duty at all times. (Suitable people) (also applies to the compulsory part of the Childcare Register)

07/07/2009

07/07/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Overall, the leadership and management of the club does not promote children's safeguarding, welfare and learning effectively enough. Although all of the required policies relating to welfare and safeguarding are in place, details of the addresses and other details for all staff are incomplete. The setting does not have a record of appropriate CRB checks for every member of staff who supervises children. The manager does not always ensure that there are sufficient numbers of appropriately qualified staff on duty. These issues are in breach of statutory requirements.

The managers' self-evaluation of the club is inaccurate. As a result, staff have not received relevant training for the Early Years Foundation Stage and do not have adequate knowledge of how to meet the individual needs of all children, which does not meet with statutory requirements. As a result, children are not making adequate progress in their learning, development and economic well-being. Children's schools, parents and carers do not receive adequate information in relation to children's progress.

Staff provide a caring, inclusive and comfortable environment where children can relax before or after school. Generally, children are happy, confident and settled in the club. Behaviour is managed effectively. The setting provides a healthy range of snacks and outdoor play facilities. These help to promote healthy lifestyles.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children at the club attend before or after school. Staff are caring and friendly and older children also play with and help the children in the early years age group. This ensures they enjoy attending the club and they gain in self-confidence. Routines for children's personal hygiene, outdoor play and healthy snacks promote healthy lifestyles effectively. However, few opportunities are offered to enable children to make a positive contribution through, for instance, helping one another to tidy away toys not use.

Children usually choose their own toys and games. Many choose to watch TV or play with hand held computer consoles. Staff at the club have failed to implement changes following the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage and so the club does not meet all of the learning and welfare requirements. As a result, the

youngest children are not making adequate progress in their learning. For example, they have little opportunity to practise their language skills. Because there are almost no records maintained about children's progress, staff are unclear about individual children's needs and consequently cannot plan to support their development. Staff are well meaning but tend to merely observe the children playing and so do not challenge or extend their thinking and language through questioning. Therefore, opportunities to promote children's future economic well-being and to develop skills for later school life are missed.

Small toys with wheels clutter the floor and children are allowed to climb and jump from relatively high gym equipment. Although risk assessments are carried out on the overall premises, insufficient attention is given to daily practice as the untidy small toys and jumping off gym equipment present potential safety risks and gives children insufficient opportunity to develop a clear understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

There are some toys, books and puzzles which help children understand different cultures and understand disability. There is very limited communication between the club and the main school and this inhibits children's continuity in their learning and development.

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.	4

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?	4
How well are children safeguarded?	4

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?	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	4
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?	4
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	4

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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 (CR3) 07/07/2009
- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report (CR4.1) 07/07/2009

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 (CR3) 07/07/2009