

Pilsley Pirates Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number

EY359141

Inspection date

17/06/2009

Inspector

Ian Jones

Setting address

Pilsley Primary School, Station Road, Pilsley,
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Telephone number

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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

Pilsley Pirates Club opened in September, 2007. It operates from The Elm Centre at Pilsley Primary School, in the village of Pilsley, Derbyshire. There is a secure enclosed outdoor play area and the children use the school sports field for relevant activities. The out of school club serves the local area and surrounding villages. It opens five days a week all year, except bank holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year. Sessions are from 15.00 until 18.00 during term time and 08.30 until 18.00 during school holidays. The setting is registered to take 48 children aged from three to under eight and currently has 42 children on roll. The club is on the Early Years Register and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. It can support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. The setting is accessible for those with mobility difficulties or disabilities. The setting employs four staff; three hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting employs four full-time staff who work with the children. Three of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and one staff member is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting receives support from the local authority and is a member of '4 Children', the Derbyshire Local Authority out of school club support network. The out of school club is owned by an individual who holds an appropriate early years qualification and works in the setting.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Provision at Pilsley Pirates Club is good. The needs of early years children are met well. Good leadership ensures that the setting meets current welfare requirements and children are safe and well cared for; they are supported in a lively and fun atmosphere. As a result they make good progress towards the early learning goals. The club is well run, teamwork amongst staff is good and outcomes of the setting's self-evaluation are used successfully to bring about any changes needed; as a result, the setting demonstrates good capacity to improve further.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve the assessment process so that staff can keep a closer track of children's progress and use the information to help each child make even better progress towards the early learning goals

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The setting is led and managed well. The leadership have drawn up effective policies and procedures to ensure children's welfare and safety. These are reviewed regularly; they are up to date and meet the current regulations and guidance. Staff are involved in a useful self-evaluation process which helps to ensure that the quality of provision is continuously evaluated. This has allowed the club to maintain good standards since the last inspection. The issue to develop children's independence has been successfully dealt with, for example, children have many opportunities to choose activities and snacks.

A strength of the provision is the promotion of children's personal development. Children of different ages work well together; they form strong friendship groups and show respect for each other. The relationships between adults and children are good.

Children's safety is given a high priority. They play in a safe environment because staff ensure that sensible and straightforward rules are always followed. Careful safety checks are conducted by staff, who ensure that good hygiene standards are maintained. Routine risk assessments are undertaken on a regular basis, reinforcing the importance that this aspect is regarded by staff. Accidents are dealt with well because members of staff have appropriate first aid qualifications. At the end of the after school club the children are handed over safely to the named person.

Links with parents are good. The setting enjoys positive relationships with parents and works effectively in partnership with them. Parents clearly have confidence that their children are happy at the club and that their safety, learning and enjoyment is assured. Systems for communication, including informal dialogue and questionnaires to understand parents' views are firmly embedded. Parents say they are very happy with the provision. They appreciate the positive relationships they have with members of staff and the regular contact at the end of sessions.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Pilsley Pirates Club makes a positive contribution to children's learning and their personal development. A good range of activities are planned which complement all areas of learning. Children make good progress and thoroughly enjoy the activities on offer. The planning system includes opportunities for children to have their say and staff ensure a variety of tasks and activities. These clearly keep the children's interest and motivates them to join in with all that is going on. Children are free to choose activities such as games and puzzles, imaginative play, writing, drawing and reading. Children move freely between activities and older children play well with the younger ones. Children from different schools play well together and there is a high level of mutual care and support. Staff encourage learning and play effectively. They strike a good balance between allowing the children to follow their own interests and intervening to guide and support in a way that ensures that children are purposefully engaged throughout the session.

Staff observe children at work and play and report points of interest to parents. These are informally recorded. However, formal arrangements for assessing children's attainments in order to plan activities that build on children's knowledge skills and understanding are not systematically used.

Children's welfare is of great importance to all staff and they are conscientious in putting the club's policies into practice. There are thorough checks on all facilities and resources at the start of every session. Records show that fire drills are regular and children spoken to knew what to do 'when the alarm goes'. There are thorough records that enable staff to inform parents of all accidents or of other incidents that could be of concern to them. Staff are conversant with the club's child protection policy and have been suitably trained in its implementation. There are thorough systems to ensure that places in the setting are pre-booked and this enables managers to secure appropriate adult to child ratios at all times. Similarly robust systems ensure that only parents or known carers collect children.

Children's personal development is good because staff care for their needs. They have high expectations of children's behaviour and enjoy positive relationships with them. The good range of activities that are available cater effectively for children's needs. Staff place a high priority on developing children's independence and strategies, such as expecting children to make choices, or to tidy up after themselves work well. The club promotes healthy lifestyles effectively.

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?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

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

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