

(K.A.O.S.) Upminster Methodist Church

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY350370
Inspection date	13/07/2009
Inspector	Patricia Mary Champion
Setting address	Wesleyan Methodist Church, Hall Lane, UPMINSTER, Essex, RM14 1AE
Telephone number	01708 722626
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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

K.A.O.S (Kids Are Out of School) at Upminster Methodist Church is privately run. It opened in the current premises in 2007 and operates from three rooms within the church building situated in Upminster, Essex. All children share access to an enclosed, outdoor play area. Access to the premises is via four steps leading down into the main hall. A maximum of 40 children may attend the out-of-school club at any one time. The club opens five days a week during school term times. Operating times are from 15:00 until 18:30.

There are currently 36 children aged from four to 11 years on roll, this includes one child in the early years age group. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The club serves children who attend four primary schools in the Upminster area. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The club employs five staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years or play work qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority and '4Children'.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children are happy and settled and enjoy a range of fun play activities that meet their individual interests and capabilities. They play in a clean, safe and secure environment. There is a friendly and helpful partnership with parents and carers. Staffing arrangements and the key documentation linked to safeguarding and promoting children's welfare meet most of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Staff are starting to become aware of their strengths and areas for development and the setting demonstrates 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:

- develop a systematic and routine approach to using observations to plan the next steps in a child's learning and ensure that planning is linked to the EYFS
- develop a culture of reflective practice and self-evaluation and informed discussion to identify the setting's strengths and priorities for development that will improve the quality of provision for all children
- develop links with the other settings that children attend within the EYFS
- improve confidentiality by reviewing the arrangements for recording accidents.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that there are at least two adults on duty in a setting at any time when children are present

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(Suitable people).

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are cared for by an experienced and caring staff team who understand their designated roles and responsibilities. All the staff have been vetted and cleared through the Criminal Records Bureau and written policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated and meet current guidelines. Although staff appraisals are undertaken and there is some evaluation of the activities on offer, the manager is not yet leading a culture of reflective practice in order to accurately identify the strengths of the setting and also the action needed to secure improvement. The staff team are receptive about comments made during the inspection and are quick to act on issues that can be addressed immediately. The manager holds a current first aid certificate and all staff have attended some childcare or play work training. However, staff do not receive information from the owner of the setting about the availability of additional short training courses held in the area.

The organisation of the setting ensures that sessions generally run smoothly and all children feel included. Children are safeguarded because staff are aware of their child protection responsibilities and risk assessment is usually undertaken each day. The staff are vigilant about the security of the children and there is an intercom entry system to prevent unauthorised access. Reliable arrangements are in place to collect children from four nearby primary schools and the required staffing ratios are usually met. However, children may not be fully supported because there are not always two people on duty at the start of afternoon sessions.

There are friendly working relationships with parents who receive relevant information about how the setting operates. Important information such as certificates, policies and procedures are openly displayed for parents. Informative verbal feedback is given at the end of each day. Written information about the children is securely stored in a locked cabinet. However, details about accidents are not yet recorded confidentially. The staff have not yet developed links with teachers in the early years classes that children attend, to ensure continuity in children's care and learning.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children gain confidence as they take part in a balance of adult-led activities and tasks that they select for themselves, from all areas of learning. The sessions are reasonably well-paced so that children can work in small groups or at times have individual attention. Children attending from different schools mix and form good friendships. Interaction between the staff and children is sensitive and amiable relationships are formed. For example, staff play card games with the children and discuss tactics. Children show great pleasure and excitement when they manage to outwit or win against a staff member. Children acquire new knowledge and skills

as they take part in cooking activities and they play imaginatively with role play equipment or small world figures and cars. However, staff have not yet developed systems linked to the EYFS to ensure that their observations of the youngest children's achievements and capabilities are used to inform future activity planning.

Children are well behaved and treat one another and staff with respect. Whilst the majority of the children are older, they are very caring and considerate towards the younger children in the early years age group. Staff ensure that all children feel included and can participate fully. Suitable systems are in place to support children with learning difficulties or additional needs. Books and resources portray positive images of diversity so that children learn about each other's similarities and differences. Activities are linked to cultural and traditional events throughout the year.

Children understand the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. They demonstrate a sound understanding of the need for an effective hygiene routine and enjoy eating nutritious and healthy light meals and snacks. Staff are well aware of any allergies or special dietary requirements. The children have some opportunities to enjoy fresh air and join in with energetic activities when they play in the outdoor area at the rear of the hall. Children learn about the importance of keeping themselves safe and practise emergency evacuation procedures and behave responsibly as they walk from school.

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:

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:

- ensure that at least two suitable persons who have attained the age of 18 years are present on the premises at all times (Welfare of the children being cared for).

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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 compulsory part of the Childcare Register section of this report (Welfare of the children being cared for).

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