

St Mary's Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	101880
Inspection date	09/07/2009
Inspector	Denise Franklin

Setting address	St Mary's C of E Infant School, Bouncers Lane, Prestbury, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 5JB
Telephone number	01242 244054
Email	jharvey505@tiscali.co.uk
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

St Mary's Kids Club opened in 2000 and is located at St Mary's Church of England Infant School in the Prestbury area of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. The group is on the Early Years register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A management committee, made up of governors of the school and parent representatives, runs the club. It may operate from several classrooms, including the music and rainbow rooms, with occasional use of the main hall. There are enclosed areas for outdoor play with grass and hard-surfaced areas. The club is open each weekday from 15.00 to 17.30 during school term-time.

A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. There are currently 39 children on roll aged between four and seven-years-old and 12 children are in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The staff have experience of supporting children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The club employs a team of four staff. Of these, two hold appropriate childcare qualifications. The club has close links with the two feeder schools. It has appropriate disabled access.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

St Mary's Kids Club offers satisfactory provision for the children overall. There are a number of good features, including the care of the children and partnerships with parents and others. However, the club has not fully implemented the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. An appropriate range of interesting activities is offered to the children and all are successfully and fully included in these activities. Children behave extremely well and older children in the group provide good support for the younger ones. Provision is monitored satisfactorily and the club has satisfactory capacity to improve.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that planning fully reflects the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and monitor the impact of the planning on provision
- formalise assessment procedures in order to track children's progress and use the information for planning activities to meet the needs of the youngest children

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The play leader has a sound understanding of the strengths of the club and has successfully addressed the recommendations from the last inspection. Practice and provision is satisfactorily evaluated through informal discussions between the staff and the management committee. However, there are no formal methods of monitoring and evaluating practice in place in order to identify areas for

development. Staff appraisals are completed annually and most staff members have completed training for the Early Years Foundation Stage framework through other jobs they have. The club runs smoothly on a day-to-day basis and all welfare requirements are fully in place. The club meets the requirements of the Childcare Register. Safeguarding procedures are robust and risk assessments are carefully organised and well-managed. The premises are safe and secure. These procedures effectively ensure that children are safe, secure and well-cared for. Parents feel this is a particular strength of the club.

Partnership with parents and other schools are good. Parents really appreciate the provision offered for their children and are happy with the care they receive. They feel they have sufficient information about the activities provided. There are close links with the school. The club uses a number of rooms in the linked school's building, although, at the time of the inspection, most of the rooms had been vacated to accommodate the school's administration during major building works.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children have access to a range of interesting activities. They enjoy their time at the club and behave extremely well. They take part in a game of 'I spy' and choose which equipment to take outside. When in their normal rooms, children have the opportunity to participate in craft activities. Good evidence of this is seen in the attractive displays around the room. Outside children make daisy chains, play football and build shapes using small construction kits. There is a brief timetable of daily activities, but overall planning does not reflect the areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage and there was very little planning available. Staff members make informal observations of the children and share any concerns with staff in the school and with parents. However, there are no formal assessment procedures in place to track the progress of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Welfare provision is good. Children enjoy healthy snacks in a relaxed social atmosphere. They spread their crackers or bread themselves and have access to drinks of squash or water. They behave extremely well and know what is expected of them. Children develop an appropriate understanding of staying safe and are gaining satisfactory skills of independence. Children make satisfactory progress in their learning and development. They are satisfactorily prepared for their next stage of 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?	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?	3
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?	3
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?	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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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