



Fun 4 Kids

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY309576
Inspection date	30 November 2005
Inspector	Anne Daly

Setting Address	St. Michaels Primary School Camulodunum Way, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9RA
Telephone number	07709 026665
E-mail	
Registered person	Catherine Ellen Watkins
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Fun 4 Kids is a privately run setting. It opened in 2005 and operates from a classroom and the school hall of St Michaels Primary School in Colchester, Essex. A maximum of 16 children aged 4 to 8 years may attend the out-of-school club at any one time. The setting is open on each term time weekday from 08:00 to 09:00 and from 15:15 to 18:00. All children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 13 children aged from 4 to under 8 years on roll. The setting also receives children over 8 years of age. Children come from the local surrounding area and attend for a variety of sessions. The setting serves 3 different schools in the

area, with staff walking to collect and deliver children from 2 of these schools.

The setting employs five staff. Four of the staff, including the manager, hold early years qualifications. Two staff members are working towards early years qualifications. The setting receives support from 4Children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because staff have a secure knowledge of appropriate procedures, such as infection control and hygiene. However, the written sickness policy does not include the exclusion times for sickness or diarrhoea. Children's best interests are protected in an emergency by the majority of staff holding first aid qualifications and by the first aid box being readily available. Parents have given their written permission for staff to seek any necessary emergency medical treatment, but not advice. Children have a sound awareness of personal hygiene routines. They take care of themselves and know to wash their hands before eating their snacks or after using the toilet.

Children increase their understanding of the importance of a healthy diet as the setting offers healthy snacks after school, such as fresh fruit and yogurts. They can help themselves to easily accessible drinks after school, but not prior to attending school, although staff will provide a drink on request. Staff ensure that they have a good awareness of children's allergies and their other special dietary requirements, so that their individual needs are well met.

Children have some opportunities for exercise and physical play to contribute to their good health. During light evenings, they take energetic exercise in the playgrounds and playing fields. However, during dark winter evenings, there are limited opportunities for physical play. Children are offered the opportunity to relax each evening after school in a cosy area furnished with large cushions and easy chairs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe environment, where daily visual checks ensure that the premises and equipment are safe. Staff are vigilant about children's security and recognise the dangers caused by the fire exit leading into the main reception area. However, no one can enter the premises unnoticed because of the school's good safety and security precautions, such as an entry intercom system.

Children have a sound awareness of their own personal safety. Fire drills are practised to ensure that children know what to do if they need to evacuate the premises in an emergency. They learn how they can keep themselves safe during their walks to and from school.

Children are able to self select activities from a range of equipment, rotated from storage and meeting both safety standards and children's developmental needs. Toys and games are regularly checked for damage and cleanliness.

Children are safeguarded by staff aware of their child protection responsibilities. However, the child protection statement does not reflect current Government guidance, such as 'What To Do If You're Worried a Child Is Being Abused', to ensure that parents are fully aware of the setting's child protection role and responsibility. Children are cared for by adults who are vetted and clear procedures are followed when staff are awaiting clearance.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have the daily opportunity to take part in a wide range of indoor activities. Staff involve children in the planning of some activities to provide added interest and stimulation. Children confidently enter the setting in the knowledge that they will immediately find something to do.

Children of all ages respond well to challenges. They spend time constructing intricate Lego models and playing card games, such as memory cards and top trumps. Children use their own initiative during creative activities. They are given materials and some ideas before creating their individual pieces of work by using their imaginations. Children enjoy acquiring new knowledge and skills, particularly simple cookery, such as icing biscuits and cakes. They play imaginatively with small world resources, such as when using the Brio train.

Children build positive relationships with each other and staff. Children from different schools mix well and make friends. Their lively and friendly interaction is encouraged by staff spending plenty of time playing with them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They are aware of their own needs and show concern for the needs of others. Staff, parents and carers work together to share information to meet children's individual needs. Some children are learning to deal with a range of emotions and feelings, with staff acknowledging their feelings and working with them to find constructive solutions. Children are beginning to appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences through discussions with staff. However, there are limited resources and activities to help them gain an awareness of other people from different cultures and with differing needs.

Children behave well. They are involved in devising the club's rules, so that they have a clear understanding of the boundaries. There is a written behaviour management policy for staff to follow to ensure the positive encouragement of good behaviour. Plenty of praise is given to children to raise their confidence and self

esteem. They delight in receiving a star on the chart when particularly helpful.

Children benefit from the friendly partnership with parents and carers. Flexible term time care is offered to cover the needs of working parents. Information is freely available to parents via discussion and newsletters. Several parents were spoken to during the inspection and all were very happy with the care offered by Fun 4 Kids.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is positively supported by effective staffing levels. The majority of staff hold early years qualifications. However, no staff have yet attended play-work training to meet Ofsted's requirements. Adult to child ratios are met at all times, especially when staff have to leave at different times to take children to school.

Space and resources are used thoughtfully to give children interesting, fun activities. Staff have early access to the premises, so that they can set up equipment prior to children's arrival. Reliable arrangements are made to collect children from their schools. Children benefit from the staff being flexible by making later collections to allow them to attend extra-curricular activities at school.

The required documentation for the safe day-to-day management is available when the setting is operating. However, some of the required policies and procedures require review to ensure the effective promotion of children's welfare and care. Whilst the registered provider has notified Ofsted of the majority of changes since registration, she did not include the use of the school hall.

Overall the range of children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets

the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- develop a range of resources and activities to help children appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences
- develop an action plan that sets out how staff's play-work training and qualification requirements will be met
- ensure that Ofsted is notified of all significant changes and continue to develop policies and procedures in line with both the National Standards and associated guidance.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk