



## **Elm Grove Kids Club**

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** EY280340

**Inspection date** 13 September 2005

**Inspector** Jill Lee

**Setting Address** Didsbury C of E Primary School, Elm Grove, Manchester,  
Lancashire, M20 6RL

**Telephone number** 0161 445 7144 or 07778160959

**E-mail**

**Registered person** Elm Grove Kids Club

**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](http://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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Elm Grove Kids Club was registered in 2004. It is located in Didsbury C of E Primary School in Manchester. It operates mainly within the school hall, but has occasional use of other classrooms to accommodate school activities. Children have access to two secure enclosed outdoor play areas.

A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. It is open each weekday from 7.30 to 8.55 and from 15.10 to 18.15 during term time only. There are currently 45 children aged from 4 years to 11 years on roll.

The club is managed by a management committee of parents, with representation from the school governing body. Three staff are employed to work directly with the children, all of whom have an appropriate early years qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment in which staff actively promote good hygiene to prevent spread of infection and keep children healthy. Arrangements for first aid and administering medication meet requirements and protect children effectively. Children learn good hygiene practices within their everyday routines as they wash their hands before snack and help staff wipe the tables.

Parent's wishes are carefully considered so that children's individual health and dietary needs are met. A bowl of fruit is always available and children can access drinks independently throughout the session. They help to prepare snacks with staff and learn to choose foods which are nutritious and healthy; children are offered appropriate choices. Children sit together to eat so that snack time is relaxed and sociable; they help to give out the plates and cups and serve the food.

Children use the very attractive and well resourced outdoor area whenever possible, enjoying active physical play which raises their awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. The school hall is used if the weather is unsuitable to go outdoors. Children enjoy running and chasing games, using the large outdoor play area with delight and confidence. A current favourite activity is having races on the new scooters. They enjoy a wide and varied range of outdoor activities like treasure hunts, building dens, boules and skittles. They use the climbing equipment skilfully and safely. Staff support children very effectively to develop and extend their physical skills.

Children learn to express and manage their own needs very well. For example, they are at ease in the club environment and able to relax quietly on cushions at the end of the school day if they are tired. They are confident in support from staff and are able to seek help appropriately.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a secure environment which allows them to play safely and move around freely. They use a wide range of safe, good quality and age appropriate resources which are organised at child height in the storage cupboards, encouraging children to access them independently. Arrangements for the collection of children from classrooms are age appropriate; younger children are met, while older children go directly to the hall. Children are supervised to the toilets as these are not adjacent to the school hall.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised, as staff conduct clear risk assessments on a daily basis. They have a very clear awareness of their responsibilities within health and safety regulations. Children develop clear understanding of expected behaviour, and good supervision encourages children to behave in responsible ways; for example children line up and walk together across the car park to the outdoor play area. Consistent reinforcement of rules helps children begin to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe, for example, reminders about carrying scissors safely from the resource shelves. Staff understand the need to balance risk and safety so that activities are challenging and interesting to children.

Staff take very seriously their responsibilities with regard to protecting children, and all have attended recent training to update their knowledge and skills. Most required child protection procedures are clearly established, implemented effectively and clearly shared with parents. Children confidently make any concerns known, for example seeking staff support to negotiate difficulties, enabling them to feel safe and secure in the club.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children love attending the club, they come to 'have fun' and 'enjoy doing everything best'. They talk very positively about what they like doing; they are settled and happy. They enjoy a very well balanced range of play opportunities at each session, both indoors and out. Staff are deployed very effectively to support children's play, and there is a good balance between adult-led and child-initiated activities. They know children very well and sensitively support their individual needs.

Staff plan interesting and varied daily experiences for children and are very responsive to children's ideas and suggestions. Children share lots of conversation about their interests and home activities in a relaxed and welcoming environment. They are self-motivated and engage in their chosen activities with lively enthusiasm; they concentrate well, and become very engrossed in activities they enjoy. They use initiative to choose activities and develop their own play ideas; for example they organise large floor games requiring turn taking and cooperation. They have opportunity to be creative and explore their own ideas, as they make coin rubbings, draw pictures and make 'junk models'; their work is valued and can be displayed for all to enjoy.

Children behave well. They learn to understand acceptable, cooperative behaviour, as they negotiate what they want to do, take turns using the play station and develop shared imaginary games. Children are confident to ask questions and their interactions with staff are warm and trusting.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children's individuality is valued and respected. They develop a strong sense of belonging to the club and freely make their own choices and decisions about activities. They plan and develop their own play ideas, using a wide range of activities and resources freely.

Staff ensure that all children can take part in activities according to their needs and abilities, so that the club is inclusive and welcoming to children. Activities are planned which raise children's awareness of the wider world and other cultures and festivals. The club has only a limited range of resources which promote children's awareness of diversity but they are able to borrow books from the school library and multi-cultural resources from a local toy library.

Children are praised often; a reward system of 'smiley faces' positively reinforces good behaviour and helps children to think about how their behaviour affects others. Children play together very harmoniously as they share toys, plan games and are helped to resolve difficulties. The daily diary evaluation occasionally describes an activity or part of the session as a little 'hectic'. Children contribute to deciding the rules of the club and display the list on the wall. However, daily opportunities to inspire children to have more active responsibility for their own behaviour and implementation of their 'rules' are not fully maximised. Although children share well and consider others they do not independently manage, for example, whose turn is next on the play station or the scooters, and they do not routinely help to tidy away toys as they finish with them.

Parent's views about their child's needs and interests are sought and kept updated, so that children's needs are met. Staff communicate very effectively with all parents, and develop shared strategies to ensure consistency with home. Parents enjoy relaxed and comfortable relationships with staff, promoting children's sense of security. Information is shared daily and confidentiality is prioritised.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The club is very well organised to ensure children's welfare and safety. Daily routines are clearly planned and flexibly implemented, to respond to children's varying needs and interests. Staff are deployed effectively and careful risk assessments are in place to monitor children's safety.

Staff work together as a strong, cohesive team, supported by effective liaison with the management committee and school governing body. They are reflective practitioners who evaluate their own practice very effectively to enhance children's experiences. They access appropriate training and development opportunities.

Effective induction procedures and ongoing review and monitoring help to ensure that the comprehensive policies and procedures are consistently applied, so that children's welfare is safeguarded. Staff are appropriately vetted and have suitable skills and experience to work with children. All required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well being is in place and is regularly reviewed. Parent's wishes regarding their child's care influence day to day practice,

and clear written agreements are recorded. Staff talk through policies and procedures with parents when children are admitted to the club, but copies of policies are not readily accessible to parents.

Overall the club actively promotes children's well-being, and effectively meets the individual needs of the range the children who attend.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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 good. 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):

- clarify the way incident records are kept and ensure parents understand behaviour management and child protection procedures
- consider ways to encourage children to have more active responsibility for management of their own behaviour and implementation of their 'rules'
- make information about policies and procedures more readily available to parents.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)