



Dolphin Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY289722
Inspection date	17 October 2005
Inspector	Patricia Dawes

Setting Address	Newbridge Preparatory School, 51 Newbridge Crescent, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV6 0LH
Telephone number	01902 751 088
E-mail	office@newbridge.wolverhampton.sch.uk
Registered person	Newbridge Preparatory School
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Dolphin Club out of school is a committee run group. It opened in 2004 and operates from three rooms within a school building. It is situated on the outskirts of Wolverhampton. A maximum 32 of children may attend the setting at any one time. The setting is open each weekday from 08.00 to 08.30 and 15.15 to 17.30 during term time and from 08.00 to 18.00 during school holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 20 children aged from 3 to under 8 years on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area, as most of their parents travel into work in or around the

city.

The nursery employs eight staff. Six of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two staff are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where their individual needs are well met. They are protected from illness by the staff's pro-active approach of consistently encouraging children to become proficient in their own personal care routines.

Children benefit from an effective, planned daily routine which allows time for exploring, testing and developing physical control. They experience a broad range of exciting physical activities that promote their understanding of how to stay healthy and active, such as using outdoor play equipment, and indoor team games.

Regular and thorough discussion promotes children's good health; for example children help prepare fruit for snacks. Children help themselves to easily accessible drinks. They take pleasure in developing their social skills during snack time because time is given for them to enjoy their food. They interact well with staff and other children talking about their day, homework and home life. This has a positive impact on their health and well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a safe secure environment in which to play. They are familiar with the staff and building and able to practice what they can do in safe surroundings and learn some sense of danger. Risks of injuries to children are minimised because staff are consistently attentive and use thorough risk assessments to reduce potential hazards. Accidents are appropriately managed and the record is shared with parents, however the time of the accident is not recorded. The impact is a delay of treatment and subsequent care for a child may occur.

Encouraging children's freedom and setting limits to maintain safety are addressed well as staff have an appropriate, focussed understanding. Children learn about safe practices as adults explain about group rules. They know and comply with safety and care routines including practising fire safety routines; however the evacuation record does not clearly show the numbers of children and staff present at the time of evacuation. The impact of this is that children and staff are unable to improve their practice.

Children use high quality equipment appropriate to their age and stage of development. It is easily accessible, checked thoroughly to ensure it meets safety

requirements and cleaned regularly. All children have equal access to resources which are not restricted.

Regular communication with parents contributes to children's safety. Children are well protected by staff that has a clear understanding of all aspects of child protection. Staff understand their roles and responsibility and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary, however there is no written statement or procedure for allegations against a member of staff to share with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

All children's needs are met and their welfare promoted by staff who have a good understanding of each child and their interests. Activities provide suitable levels of challenge for all children. Children's opinions and ideas are sought in order to provide a variety of play opportunities to meet their needs.

Children are able to decide when they access the creative tables. They are encouraged to use their initiative and behave well. They eagerly initiate conversations with staff and talk with enthusiasm about what they have done. They enjoy all activities, have fun, play imaginatively, and complete their homework.

Children's confidence and self-esteem are boosted by the skilful interaction of the staff who are positive and respectful to all children and value what each child has to offer. They offer praise and encouragement to children. Staff and children have a relaxed relationship and relate well to each other. Older children play as a group with younger children, which displays a happy settled atmosphere.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are made thoroughly welcome and staff are supportive in ensuring each child's individual needs are met, and their time is spent purposefully. Each child is valued and included in every aspect of the daily routine. Children are able to make choices in their play which promotes their independence well, and ensures that they are interested in what they do. They have good opportunities to learn about themselves and others in the wider community. Resources and activities offered are meaningful, stimulating and fun, however resources which actively promote equality are lacking.

Children's behaviour is well managed due to the clear boundaries and positive role models set by the staff. Effective strategies and written policies are in place, which are displayed and discussed with parents to promote consistency. Children are beginning to understand the difference between right and wrong and this is continually reinforced through daily routines and practices such as showing care and consideration for others and helping to tidy away toys after use.

Children's individual needs are well met because staff are positive, professional and friendly. There are systems in place to develop positive relationships with parents to encourage involvement and information sharing. Parents receive information regarding the policies and procedures of the setting, which has a positive impact on children's needs being effectively met through parents' wishes being respected.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a very effectively organised routine and varied programme of activities. Children are happy, comfortable and settled in a warm and caring environment where their individual needs are met. The children spend their time purposefully and all activities are planned to maximise play, learning and development opportunities for the children.

Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place which have a positive impact on children's safety and well-being. All documentation must be regularly reviewed and updated to comply with current legislation. This should be shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service.

Children benefit from the care of staff who are highly motivated and committed to improve and develop their knowledge and practice through regular and ongoing training. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of 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.
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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?
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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):

- ensure sufficient detail is included on documentation such as the accident and fire evacuation records
- further develop the child protection statement to ensure it is fully in line with the National Standards for Day care and include a statement of the procedure to follow if an allegation is made against a member of staff
- increase the amount and the variety of toys/resources offered to children, include positive images of diversity and ensure children can access them freely
- ensure all policies and procedures meet the required National Standards.

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