



Kidmore End After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	24 November 2005
Inspector	Jan Leo
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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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kidmore End After School Club opened in 1989 and is privately owned. It operates from the village primary school in Kidmore End, Oxfordshire. The club takes place in the school hall and has access to some school facilities including outdoor play area. All of the children attend the village school and most of them live in Kidmore End or in the villages nearby.

The provision is registered to care for up to 30 children from 3 years to under 8 years, and there are currently 57 children on the roll. Children attend on a full or part time basis. Children over the age of 8 years are also accepted.

The group opens Monday to Thursday during school term time only. Sessions are from 15:15 to 18:00.

Four members of staff care for the children and there are two teenage helpers working under staff supervision. Over half of the staff hold a recognised qualification to level two or above.

The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children receive appropriate treatment if they get hurt because there is always a first aider on site and the first aid box is well stocked. Bob the Builder plasters are available for young children, to cheer them up after injury, and staff share clear accident records with parents and carers to inform them about all their children's health issues. Children have a substantial and nourishing snack to sustain them until they get home, which includes a choice of drinks, fruit, and a wide variety of sandwich fillings. Although children wash their hands before eating snack, those who prepare the snack do not wear aprons to prevent the spread of germs, and snack time is not well organised in order to promote children's good health. For example, children do not have a designated, cleaned area in which to eat. This results in them moving around and using resources during refreshment time. Staff promote a healthy lifestyle by providing daily fresh air and exercise, weather permitting. A weekly fitness session is available for children who attend on Wednesdays, and children develop active play indoors on other days. For example, some dance on crash mats to popular music, while others jump around like cheerleaders, waving their pom-poms vigorously.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive promptly because they are encouraged with sweets. This provides staff with an easy opportunity to check who is present and chase up stragglers who do not appear. Whilst staff find this an effective means of gathering children together, it does not ensure all children arrive safely at the setting. Some children attend school activities during their time at the after school club, but the register does not indicate their whereabouts. This makes the number of children present and staff responsibility unclear. Staff have an effective entry system to control access by parents and carers, but unchecked adults are sometimes on site as guests of the school. All the staff have a reasonable understanding of child protection issues but, despite that, they do not always supervise children closely when unchecked adults are on the premises. Staff protect children from injury by maintaining the equipment and reminding children how to move about safely between activities. Children practice evacuating the building from time to time, during the school day, but not during the out of school club. As a result, some staff and children are unsure how to evacuate from the out of school area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play with a good selection of resources and equipment to keep them well occupied while at the provision. They quickly select what to do from the pre-prepared tabletop activities, which include various crafts, bingo and computer games. Some play on the computer for lengthy periods until staff intervene to ensure others get a chance to try their skill. Children mix well

regardless of their age, and most join up with friends to play together. Some choose to play alone to have a chance to unwind after school. Children chat confidently while they play, and most happily talk about what they are doing. Some ask for favourite activities, such as videos, and staff obligingly locate one that is suitable for all ages to watch together. Others throw themselves into musical bumps, desperately trying to fall faster than their friends do. Sedate activities turn to active games once children have eaten to re-charge their batteries, and all play harmoniously together. Both staff and helpers join in play to develop good relationships with the children and ensure they have fun. The children welcome this involvement and giggle loudly as the games progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children appear to like the out of school club, and the opportunity it provides to mix with a wide group of friends after school. Staff treat all children fairly, giving each the support they need to participate in all the activities. Children with special needs are welcome, though none attend at present. Children follow clear rules of behaviour, following the same principles as the school to ensure consistency. Staff handle sensitively those displaying difficult behaviour, to encourage them to conform, and behaviour is generally good. Staff build satisfactory relationships with parents and carers to help meet children's individual needs. For example, staff make themselves available to talk to parents whenever they collect, so that care arrangements continue to be effective. Clear policies and procedures are in place but some are not up to date, and parents only see them if they make a request. Staff display some essential information about the provision, but this is not displayed prominently and is therefore not always seen by parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The staff are qualified and experienced and they work well together as a team. The activities are organised carefully to offer something for everyone, and provide opportunities for both active and quiet games. The registered provider ensures staff complete the clearance process to check their suitability, and she supervises young helpers closely. At times, children are involved in activities away from the main room, and they can be unsupervised while unchecked adults are around. The provider implements new regulatory requirements effectively, and paperwork is clear, tidy, and easy to find. She does not review existing documentation regularly to keep it up to date and ensure policy reflects practice.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to ensure accident records contain sufficient information. A standard form is now used for each accident, which requires full details of the date, circumstances and any necessary treatment. Each accident is fully recorded and shared

with parents and carers to keep them informed of their children's health issues, and enable them to continue treatment at home if necessary.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004.

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):

- improve health and hygiene by ensuring people preparing food wear protective clothing, and children sit away from resources when eating
- improve safety by ensuring all children and staff are familiar with emergency evacuation procedures from the out of school area, and make sure records indicate where children are if they are not with the out of school provision staff
- ensure parents and carers have easy access to policies, procedures and up to date information about the provision
- make sure that only checked and cleared adults have unsupervised access to the children
- review documentation regularly to ensure policies match practice and are kept up to date.

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