



Hermitage Kool Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY256870
Inspection date	14 February 2006
Inspector	Mark Evans
Setting Address	Whitwick St John The Baptist CoE Primary School, Parson Wood Hill, Whitwick, Leicester, LE67 5AT
Telephone number	01530 832116
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Registered person	Hermitage Kool 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.

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?

The Hermitage Kool Kids Club has been operating since January 2001, but moved to the St. John the Baptist Church of England Primary School in April 2003. The school is located in the village of Whitwick, in Leicestershire. The out of school club serves children attending this school and several others in the local area.

There are currently 57 children, from 4 years to 10 years of age on the register. Children can attend a variety of sessions after school and during the school holidays. The setting supports children who have special needs. There are no children who have English as an additional language.

The out of school care opens five days a week during school term and school holidays. Sessions are from 15:00 until 18:00 during the school term and from 08:00 until 18:00 during school holidays.

Five staff work at the setting, of whom four have level three early years qualifications. The setting is working towards the National Day Nurseries Association quality assurance scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children maintain good health through using appropriate hygiene practices in their daily routines, for example, washing their hands before eating and after toileting. They have understanding of the reasons for good hygiene, which encourages them to take responsibility for personal care. Children also keep healthy because they are cared for in a clean environment, which helps to prevent spread of infection. Their well-being is secured through staff having knowledge of appropriate health practices through relevant training, for example, food safety and hygiene and first aid. There are secure arrangements for administering medication, however, the system for recording accidents is inconsistent and as a result there are some omissions of detail. Children continue to develop coordination and control of their bodies through regular outdoor and indoor physical games and activities. They benefit from the fresh air and exercise.

Children are aware of healthy eating and their dietary health is supported by daily provision of healthy foods such as fruit. Their well-being is safeguarded because staff have awareness of their dietary needs and this is recorded. Children have drinks at snack time and they are able to have drinking water at any time during their session. This ensures that they are well hydrated and comfortable.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have safe and comfortable accommodation for their care and play because the premises are generally well maintained. They are kept safe because furniture and resources are in suitable condition and staff use some practice to reduce most risks, for example, by clearing the outdoor area of any hazardous items. However, written risk assessments are not always reviewed and completed for any significant changes to use of the premises, which means that at times, children experience a potentially unsafe environment.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff have sound knowledge of child protection issues and there are clear procedures for lost or uncollected children. Children learn about safety and take responsibility for establishing safe practice, which helps to develop an awareness of their own safety and the safety of others. For example, they help to tidy away activities to keep safe order and have devised

rules that link to safety, such as no running within the rooms and keeping all four legs of their chair on the ground.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and settled. They spend their time purposefully in play and activities. They use opportunities to express their creativity, for example, through use of art and craft materials, junk modelling and cooking. However, children do not have use of natural materials on a regular basis and this restricts additional opportunities for them to play and be creative. Children enjoy using their imagination and engage in some role play to express their ideas and to socialise, although the resources for this are limited and as a consequence this reduces their involvement in this type of play.

Children explore their environment; they are confident to talk to staff to make suggestions and they independently select activities and resources to initiate their own play. At most times they show appropriate concentration and interest in their activities. Children enjoy taking part in games and activities that require sharing and taking turns, which aids their social development. For example, a group of children showed good levels of involvement with an adult led general knowledge game. Children have positive relationships with adults at the setting and this supports their sense of security and well-being.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are made welcome at the setting and their individual needs are accounted for. Their awareness of the wider community is increased by involvement in activities that promote various cultural festivals. For example, there are planned activities that link to the Chinese New Year, St David's Day and Diwali. Children have access to some play materials that contribute to their awareness of diversity.

Children assist in devising rules for the setting, which enables them to consider safe conduct and take responsibility for behaviour. Their confidence is supported by staff who encourage and give praise for their achievements and good behaviour. When taking part in group games the children are able to take turns and they enjoy the competition and achievement. Children benefit from the positive relationships and daily communications that staff have with parents. This enhances the levels of continuity for the children. Parents receive written details on the setting, which helps them to be informed about the care of their child.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel welcome at the setting and they benefit from organisation that allows

them to make some choices and develop their ideas as they play. The organisation for use of school facilities and outdoor space provides children with various play opportunities and allows them to be active or relaxed. Staff deployment supports satisfactory adult to child ratios and allows children to have some individual attention. Records on staff details and training are kept and there is an induction system for new staff. However, the details of procedures for vetting new staff do not confirm a secure system, which is potentially unsafe for children. Most staff have a relevant child care qualification and there is a strong commitment to staff training and personal development. Documentation is made available for inspection and most policies, procedures and records are in place to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the standard of care at the out of school club was judged as inadequate. The setting was required to ensure that there is a minimum of two adults on duty and that staff are effectively deployed to ensure the safe and efficient running of the club; plan and provide a suitable range of activities for children, which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs; ensure staff are fully familiar with the health and safety procedures to promote safety within the setting, including procedures to follow in the event of a lost child, for safe use of the outdoor space and in the event of an allegation of abuse against a member of staff and that children are aware of safety issues to keep themselves safe and develop staff's awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development, ensure that methods are consistently applied and that children are aware of the boundaries.

The setting has employed an additional staff member for the early period of the session to ensure that there are two persons on duty at all times and deploys staff effectively so that they work together to keep children safe. A range of activities are planned and provided for children to give them opportunity to express their creativity and take part in group games. The setting is continuing to develop types of play and activities. Staff are aware of health and safety issues and have written guidance for procedures to follow in the event of an allegation of abuse against a member of staff, procedures for a missing child and written risk assessments for use of the outdoor area. This helps to keep children safe whilst at the setting. Staff have had some in-house training to ensure consistent behaviour management and they have involved children in devising rules for the setting, which enables them to consider safe conduct and take responsibility for behaviour. This has ensured the quality of the care is now of a satisfactory standard.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. 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

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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):

- ensure that records of accidents include parental signature to acknowledge the entry and evidence notification
- ensure that written risk assessments are reviewed and up-dated for any changes
- develop the range of activities that encourage use of natural materials and improve the presentation and content of resources for role play
- ensure that there are secure procedures for vetting and recruitment of staff.

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