



SANDMARTINS AND SANDPIPERS PLAY-SCHEME

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	153465
Inspection date	01 February 2006
Inspector	Elaine Douglas
Setting Address	SANDFORD ST MARTINS FIRST SCHOOL, SANDFORD, WAREHAM, DORSET, BH20 7AJ
Telephone number	01929 551212
E-mail	
Registered person	SandMartins Playscheme
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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Sandmartins and Sandpipers Playscheme are an out of school and holiday club that is run by a committee of volunteers. They opened in 1995 and 1999 respectively and are situated within the school grounds of Sandford St Martins First School in Sandford, Wareham. Sandmartins occupy the technology unit on the school grounds. Sandpipers operates from the preschool unit, also within the school grounds. Toilet facilities for Sandpipers are within the school and accessed via a short walk. Both settings have use of the extensive out door play areas and school fields. They are registered for 42 4-8 year olds and cater for children up to the age of 14 years within the two groups. Sandpipers offers out of school care for 18 4-8 year olds and are

open Monday to Friday from 15.00 to 17.00 term time only. This is generally used by the younger children. Sandmartins offers out of school and holiday care for 24 4-8 year olds catering for the older age children. They are open Monday to Friday from 07.30 to 08.45 and 15.00 to 18.00 term time, and Monday to Friday 08.00 until 18.00 during the holidays.

There are currently 120 children from 4 to 14 years on roll. Of these 55 are under 8 years. Children come from Sandford St martins First School, with whom close links have been formed, as well as the surrounding local schools. The group supports children who have special needs.

The manager holds take 10 for play, NVQ 2 and NVQ 3 in playwork and is currently working towards NVQ 4. The group employs 16 staff. There are 7 staff who hold an appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected by good standards of hygiene. They learn good hygiene practices for themselves, such as helping to clean the tables and washing their hands prior to snack. They use clean premises which are well heated and ventilated. Children are protected from illness through clear procedures. They receive good care if accidents occur as staff have first aid training in early years and a good supply of first aid equipment, which is easily accessible. Children's medical needs are well met; good information is sought from parents and staff receive training in using medical equipment, such as an EpiPen.

Children's health is promoted well in the healthy environment where they frequently enjoy fresh air and physical exercise. Children regularly use the school grounds to take part in group activities such as football. During the holiday playscheme children benefit from a wide range of planned activities which promotes their health. For example, they use the school swimming pool and go on trips to take part in activities such as horse riding and bowling. Children are able to rest and be active according to their own needs.

Children benefit from a selection of nutritional snacks, for example toast or crumpets. They can choose from the snack bar, a range of fruit and raw vegetables. There are provided with milk or juice and can help themselves to water at any time. Their dietary needs are met through good communication with parents to ensure they remain healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe through good supervision and play safely in the

well-organised, secure premises. They are protected by the very good practices followed for the collection of children. Visitors identification is checked and adults unfamiliar to staff are checked to ensure children only leave with an authorised adult. Children are kept safe on outings through very thorough procedures. Parents give consent for children to be transported, and the vehicles and drivers information are checked by the manager. Good risk assessments are carried out on specific activities such as swimming and actions are taken to ensure children's risk of accidental injury is minimised. Children develop a good awareness safety for themselves. All children take part in regular fire drills and the older children assist with the supervision of younger children. Children independently select from a good range of safe resources which are appropriate to their stages of development. These are all well-organised to support them in making choices. However, some of the containers in which resources are stored in Sandpipers are broken. This caused one child to catch his fingers as he helped to tidy up.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the staffs good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. All staff attend child protection training; the manager is clear about her responsibilities and the correct procedures to report concerns and allegations.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children happily settle to the activities provided. They are confident to make their own suggestions and to ask for activities and resources of their choosing. Consequently children are motivated and remain at activities until they have completed them to their own satisfaction. Children are confident in their relationships with staff and benefit from the good interaction. Staff listen and respond well to them, supporting their play. Children have access to I.T. equipment and older children can access the Internet with parental permission. This is well supervised and has restricted access. Children enjoy a range of creative activities aimed at different abilities. For example, one child creates his own design by colouring squared paper. Another child makes a two-dimensional Noah's Ark using stencils and another child makes her own puppet-on-a-string. Children who attend the playscheme take part in a range of activities and organised outings, based on a weekly theme. For example, the theme of fragrances included making candles and a visit to the Lush factory.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed within the environment. New children are well supported and consequently soon settle into the routine. Children are confident and enjoy their time at the group. They independently move around the premises to make decisions about how they spend their time. Consequently children's behaviour is good. They have all been involved in making a book on what they think is acceptable behaviour. This results in children feeling valued and having a clear understanding of the expectations staff have of their behaviour. Children willingly help to tidy-up and

take care of the environment.

Children learn about other people's differences and develop a positive attitude to others through taking part in activities. For example, children learn about others less fortunate than themselves by taking part in fundraising events. They enjoy cooking multicultural foods and celebrating festivals such as Divali. Children with special educational needs are well supported at the group to ensure they can access the activities.

Children's welfare and individual needs are well met through good communication with parents. Parents are provided with good information on the setting, activities and policies and procedures. The parents information booklet is available daily and parents have good opportunities to speak to staff.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and at ease in the welcoming environment. The premises and deployment of staff are well-organised to effectively support children. Children's care and welfare is promoted through good procedures. Most of these are clearly written to share with staff and parents. However, the procedures for if an allegation is made against a member of staff are not included in the child protection policy. The procedures for dealing with bullying are not included in the behaviour management policy and the complaints policy has not been updated in line with the new procedures.

Children's records are effectively used to provide appropriate care. Good systems ensure that in an emergency appropriate information can be easily accessed. Most documentation is stored confidentially. However, the administration of medication is recorded on the same page and therefore can be seen by all parents.

Children are cared for by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Specialist activities such as swimming, are also supervised by a qualified swimming instructor and lifeguard. All staff are checked to ensure their suitability. However, there is currently no system in place to ensure ongoing suitability is checked.

Children benefit from the staff evaluating their own practice and implementing new systems. For example, staff effectively used the self-evaluation form to identify a weakness in the nutritional value of the food provided. As a result they introduced a healthy snack bar. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group were asked to develop an effective system for recording visitors and to make sure children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised.

Since that inspection the group have introduced a visitor's book to record the details of any visitor attending the group. Staff now check the grounds and ensure gates are closed prior to children using the outside area. Children are also well supervised to ensure they cannot leave the premises. This ensures that children are kept safe and only leave the premises under supervision.

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

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):

- ensure the storage containers in Sandpipers are well maintained and do not pose a hazard to children
- devise a system to continue to ensure staff remain suitable to work with children
- revise the policies and procedures to ensure the complaints policy is in line with the new procedures; the behaviour management policy includes the procedures for bullying; and the procedures for if an allegation is made against a member of staff is included in the child protection policy
- revise the system for recording the administration of a medication to ensure confidentiality

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