



The Otter Club (Kidzone)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY298311
Inspection date	19 January 2006
Inspector	Trudy Scott

Setting Address	Carter Knowle Junior School, Carter Knowle Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S7 2DY
Telephone number	07813 008315
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Registered person	The Otter 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Otter Club has been registered since 2005 and is owned and run by a voluntary management committee. It operates in a basement room on school premises, located in a suburb of Sheffield. Out of school care is provided for children up to 11 years. Times of opening are from 15.30 to 17.45 during school term times.

The club is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children at any one time. Currently there are 26 children from 4 to under 8 years on roll. The club supports children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

There are six staff who work with the children. Half the staff hold recognised qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy within the setting as they are cared for in clean, well-maintained premises. Staff reduce the spread of infection through good hygiene practices, such as cleaning food preparation areas thoroughly and using a sink designated only for washing dishes. Children manage personal hygiene independently and understand simple good hygiene practice, such as why they wash their hands before eating. All necessary policies and procedures are in place to support children's health care. For example, there is a clearly worded sickness policy that provides clear guidance regarding infectious illnesses and exclusion periods.

Children enjoy nutritious snacks and help themselves to drinks of water and juice throughout the session. They are encouraged to eat when they feel hungry and are offered a variety of tempting fruits and snacks. This helps them develop a positive attitude towards healthy eating. For example, children take time to savour the food as they make fruit cocktails, using melon, banana, kiwi fruit and grapes. Outdoor play and indoor physical activity is a regular feature of the club and contributes to children's overall good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children move independently in the club setting and are learning, to some extent, to keep themselves safe due to staff raising their awareness of potential danger. However, general security of the premises is not good enough to guarantee children's safety. Although staff monitor entry and exit routes, there is no adequate means of restricting access to the building or making sure children cannot leave unattended. Staff conduct daily safety checks on the premises and resources. They are aware of the potential for accidental injury when children play boisterously inside, but have not completed a formal risk assessment or taken sufficient action to minimise this.

Staff have sound knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures and know what to do if they have concerns about a child. However, the recruitment and vetting procedures are not sufficiently rigorous to ensure all staff have completed necessary checks. This means children's welfare is not fully safeguarded.

Children enjoy using a suitable range of safe toys and play materials, which includes a good variety of creative materials and physical play equipment. They access resources independently as they are appropriately organised in low level storage and child height furniture.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are enthusiastic and self-assured in the club's lively environment. They enjoy their time at the end of the school day when they can rest or be active according to their needs. There is a suitable range of activities which interest the children. For instance, many children take an active part in physical games and role play activities, while others select quieter activities, such as art and craft. Staff plan informally together, before the start of each session, to make sure the activities are appropriate for the children attending. They are currently developing a system to evaluate the impact of activities, to better inform future planning.

Relationships between children and staff are warm and friendly. Staff are approachable and show children they value them by listening to what they have to say. Children have time to play independently and initiate activities, receiving support and encouragement from staff. Staff understand their role in children's play and know when to allow them the freedom to explore independently and when to interact to help children develop their ideas.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children feel at home in the welcoming club setting. They have a sense of belonging because they are familiar with the staff and are comfortable with the routines of the club. For example, some children decide to have a snack immediately, while others choose to play first, knowing a snack will still be available later. Children are helped to feel good about themselves as staff give them appropriate praise and encourage them to make choices about their play. This approach helps children develop confidence and self-esteem.

Children usually play harmoniously together and have some understanding of responsible behaviour. They manage their own behaviour, with support from staff, and are aware of boundaries and club rules. Staff encourage children to show consideration for others in daily play and discussions, although plan few activities to help them appreciate each other's similarities and differences.

Parents have friendly relationships with staff and receive verbal information from them to ensure they know how their children spend their time at the club. They can see most policies and procedures on request. However, there is no written complaints procedure available. This means there is little reassurance that concerns are dealt with promptly and fairly and not all parents are sure of how to make a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children enjoy their time in the setting because staff are enthusiastic and provide a

comfortable place for them to play and relax. Staff organise time and resources generally well so that children can participate in suitable activities which sustain their interest. Children receive sufficient adult attention to help them make progress as staff spend the majority of their time observing or interacting in children's play.

There are a number of policies and procedures in place, which support the day to day running of the club, such as behaviour management and child protection. Some of the requirements for keeping records are met, although storage of records is not secure enough to ensure total confidentiality. The organisation of documentation is not effective in ensuring all necessary paperwork is available for inspection. For example, there are no staff details kept on the premises. The lack of robust procedures to ensure all staff are checked and a casual attitude towards some aspects of safety exposes children to potential risk. Overall, this means that the provision does not meet the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that there are effective procedures in place for checking that staff are suitable to work with children
- assess the risks to children in relation to general security of the premises and the area for indoor physical play and take action to minimise them

- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint
- ensure that all required records relating to the day care are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

These actions are set out in a ***notice of action to improve*** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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