



Outer School Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY314839 |
| Inspection date | 09 March 2006 |
| Inspector | Michele Anne Villiers |
| Setting Address | Hunts Cross Primary School, Kingsthorpe Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool, Merseyside, L25 0PJ |
| Telephone number | |
| E-mail | |
| Registered person | Sarah Cowan |
| 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?

Outer School Kids Club opened in 2005 and operates from a designated classroom in Hunts Cross Primary School. Children also have access to the school hall and outdoor play area. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. The club opens five days a week, during school term time, from 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.15 to 18.00.

There are currently 44 children aged from 3 to under 11 years on roll. All children on roll attend Hunts Cross School.

The club employs two permanent staff, and two relief workers. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff promote satisfactory hygiene procedures to protect children from illness, and help prevent the spread of infection. A cleaner is employed by the school to maintain the cleanliness of the premises, and staff ensure tables and work surfaces are wiped clean for children to play and have their meals. Parental consent is in place for the administration of medication, and children's accidents are recorded. All staff hold a first aid certificate in order to attend to minor injuries, and they follow suitable procedures for dealing with sick children. Throughout the play session children learn about basic hygiene rules. They are reminded to wash their hands at appropriate times and help to wash the tables and clean up after messy play.

Children enjoy a variety of physical activities which help to foster their health and development. They play football in the large hall, and staff organise team games and group participation using bats, balls, hoops, bean bags and a parachute canopy. Children also have access to outdoor play in the fresh air. Snacks are reasonably nutritious with fresh fruit offered daily. Foods high in sugar are limited and sweets not permitted. All dietary requirements are met and allergies recorded. Drinking water is provided throughout the session, and children are offered juice at snack time.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are safe and secure, and children have sufficient space to freely move around. The environment is welcoming with displays of colourful artwork and designated areas for play. Children access a variety of different activities, and toys and resources are safe and suitable for the age range of children attending. Staff take appropriate steps to promote safety in the setting. Risk assessment is conducted daily to help ensure children are not exposed to any hazards.

The fire evacuation procedure is practised with children, helping them to understand what to do in the event of an emergency. Staff supervise the children well, to keep them safe, and organise small group activities. Some resources, such as books, puzzles and posters on fire fighters, police and hospitals, help children to learn about local services that help people. Staff remind children not to run when moving from one room to another, helping to prevent accidents. Children are further protected from harm as staff have a general awareness of child protection. There is a written policy and appropriate contact numbers available for staff should they have any concerns. However, the policy does not include the procedure for staff to follow if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and enjoy their play. They have a warm and positive relationship with staff, which helps to promote their confidence and self-esteem. They freely explore their environment, demonstrating independence as they select different toys and activities, which promote their all-round development. Children happily play with construction toys, building a 'monster truck', and use their imagination well as they set the table for tea in the home corner, and dress-up in different outfits. They learn the strategies of various board games, and enjoy pool, helping to foster their mathematical skills and matching concepts. Staff encourage children to develop good language and literacy skills. They play 'hang-man', extending their vocabulary and writing skills, helping children to spell and recognise the written alphabet. Children access a wide range of books for both reference and enjoyment.

Children enthusiastically participate in art and craft activities. They use a range of textured resources and junk materials to make models and collage, such as piggy bank money boxes out of papier-mâché, and Easter and spring displays of flowers and eggs. Children explore and discuss various shades of colour as they independently mix paint. They play well alongside each other, in teams and independently. Staff support children well, joining in their activities and encouraging their learning. Children eagerly help staff to tidy away, set tables up and a nominated 'helper' gives out the food at snack time, and pours the drinks, helping to further foster their independence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are warmly welcomed by staff, and respected as individuals. They make a positive contribution to the club and have opportunities to put forward ideas and suggestions for specific activities, providing them with a sense of belonging. Activities are not gender specific and are made available for all children to access. They learn about different cultures through the celebration of some festivals such as Chinese New Year, and access some resources reflecting positive images of race, culture and gender. However, there are few resources reflecting disability and limited displays of positive images of race, culture, gender and disability.

Staff manage the children's behaviour appropriately and children respond well to instructions. They learn to respect each other, and staff use praise and encouragement to reinforce good behaviour and raise the children's self-esteem. Children take turns to use the pool table and participate in different activities. They line up and walk between rooms and show good manners at meal times. Staff have a warm relationship with parents, which promotes the children's welfare. Parents are greeted on arrival and information is shared through daily discussion. Children's individual needs are gathered on 'Information about your child' documents, where parents may record their child's favourite food, television programme, pop group, colour, sport, and things they like to do.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The club is suitably organised for play opportunities, with sufficient qualified staff. Staff keep up-to-date on regulatory training requirements, and are aware of the National Standards to promote the care, learning and play for all children. All staff are vetted. However, there is not a clear procedure to follow for the recruiting and vetting of new staff, or the induction process. Most written policies and procedures are in place and records are stored securely. Regulatory documentation is displayed for parents to see, including the complaints procedure, and staff are aware of informing Ofsted of any changes. Overall the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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 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):

- include in the written statement on child protection the procedure to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff
- continue to increase toys, resources and displays reflecting positive images of race, culture, gender and disability
- devise a policy setting out the procedure for vetting and recruiting staff, and to include the induction programme.

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