



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 958972

DfES Number: 545000

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	19/01/2005
Inspector Name	Kathryn Mary Harding

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Kidszone Oswestry
Setting Address	Cabin Lane Oswestry Shropshire SY11 2LQ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Kidszone Oswestry
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Kidszone Oswestry
Address	Eastern Oswestry Community Centre Cabin Lane Oswestry Shropshire SY11 2LQ

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

Information about the setting

Kidzone Oswestry opened in 2001. It is situated in the Eastern Oswestry Community Centre, in the town of Oswestry. It operates from two rooms. A maximum of 34 children may attend the setting at any one time. The setting is open each weekday from 09:00 to 18:00, term time only. The holiday club is open in the school holidays from 08:30 to 18:00. All children can access an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 51 children aged from 2 years to 8 years on roll. Of these, 40 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local area. The setting supports children who have special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The setting employs six staff. All the staff have early years qualifications. The setting receives support from a teacher mentor from the Early Years Development and Child Care Partnership. The setting is working towards the Growing Together quality assurance award.

How good is the Day Care?

Kidzone Oswestry provides a good standard of care for children. All staff are first aid trained and hold childcare qualifications. They access regular training in early years issues and current good practice guidelines and this helps to ensure that children are cared for in a child-orientated environment. Staff work well together as a team and know their roles and responsibilities.

The staff have an acceptable awareness of safety issues and effective procedures are in place to ensure the well-being of children. However, staff must ensure that hot drinks are kept well out of children's reach. The taps in the wash hand basins also need to be in working order. Regular risk assessments are undertaken to ensure the premises and outdoor areas are kept safe.

Children are confident, well-settled and good relationships have been formed with staff and each other. There is a broad selection of stimulating activities planned to

support children's development in all areas. Children are given choice in their activities, so encouraging their independence and self confidence. Staff talk and listen to children, using praise and encouragement to support their learning. However, staff need to ensure that there is sufficient storage so that available space is effectively utilised to promote children's learning.

Partnership with parents is good. Many parental responses were received by Ofsted. Parents expressed their satisfaction with the service offered and commented on the friendly, caring, approachable staff and like the wide variety of activities on offer in a relaxed yet structured environment. A parental notice board contains information about the intended activities. However, parents need to give written consent regarding the administration of medication and sign the medication records to acknowledge the entry.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable, as this is the first inspection.

What is being done well?

- Staff interact in a calm and consistent manner with the children and listen and respond appropriately to their requests.
- A high staffing ratio enables staff to give more individual time to the children and support them in their play.
- Children are valued, their individuality is respected and staff work in partnership with parents and other organisations, ensuring that children's individual needs are being met.
- Partnership with parents is good. Staff work hard to keep parents well informed about their child.

What needs to be improved?

- the storage space so the available play space can be fully utilised
- the taps to be in working order
- the safety of hot drinks
- the documentation to include written parental consent to administer medication and parental signature to acknowledge entry in the medication records.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

Outcome of the inspection
Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION
<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection	
Std	Recommendation
4	Ensure that there is sufficient storage so that space is effectively utilised to promote children's learning.
6	Ensure that hot drinks are inaccessible to children.
6	Ensure that taps are in working order.
7	Obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children and ensure that parents sign the medication record to acknowledge the entry.

INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

How effective is the nursery education?

Kidszone Oswestry provides generally good nursery education for children. The children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is generally good, with three areas of learning being very good. Staff offer a stimulating environment where children enjoy learning through a wide range of interesting, planned and spontaneous activities. Staff have fun with the children and encourage and enable the children to be independent and confident learners. However, observations and assessments need to be further developed to ensure children's progression. Consideration needs to be given to ensuring that children have opportunities to access mark making equipment in the role play area and opportunities to freely develop their creative skills. Staff are calm in their management of children's behaviour and consistently praise children's efforts.

The leadership and management of the setting is generally good. Staff know their roles and responsibilities and work well together as a team. They work with parents to ensure that all children are included and the children's needs are met. Staff are constantly evaluating the effectiveness of the education through communication with parents, staff meetings and regular observations and assessments.

Partnership with parents is very good. Staff work very hard to ensure that parents are kept well informed about their child's progress. Parents can arrange a meeting with staff to talk about how their child is progressing. Parental comments received by Ofsted indicate a high degree of satisfaction with the nursery. Good quality information is provided to parents about the nursery life and parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is a strength of the setting. Children are confident, interested and keen to learn. They engage in activities for sustained periods of time and play co-operatively together.
- Children's mathematical learning is extended by staff, both within planned activities and spontaneously, particularly with regard to number and counting.
- Knowledge and understanding of the world is very good. Children have very good opportunities to explore, investigate and talk about their predictions. They confidently talk about their families, past, present and future events and adults know the children very well and extend these conversations.
- Partnership with parents is very good. Parents have good opportunities to exchange information about their child's progress and attainment. Parents are kept well informed about the planned activities and have lots of opportunities to be involved in the life of the group.

What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● opportunities for children to access mark making materials in the role play area● the role play area and opportunities for children to develop their creative skills● organisation of space● the further development of observations and assessments and to continue to link these into the planning of the next steps in children's learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?
Not applicable, as this is the first inspection.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are excited to play with snow and have a strong exploratory impulse when playing with ice. They concentrate well when playing with the puzzles and play co-operatively together when playing with the train track. Children behave very well and staff remind children of the rules of the group. They have lots of opportunities to select an activity for themselves, so encouraging their independence. They are encouraged to develop their self-care skills during the session.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children sit and concentrate very well at circle time and listen well to instructions. They confidently talk in small and large groups. Children's recognition of sound is encouraged and re-enforced by staff. Staff encourage children to handle the books carefully as they share the stories with others. Children draw with meaning and older children are beginning to form recognisable letters. However, there are limited opportunities for children to access writing materials in the role play area.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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There are many planned and spontaneous opportunities for children to count, use number and recognise numerals during the session. They have opportunities to solve, in a practical way, simple number problems. There is a good range of mathematical equipment for children to sort compare make and recreate patterns. Children use size language in their play and have opportunities to look at different shapes and the shapes of everyday objects.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have many opportunities to explore, investigate and talk about predictions. They host and take part in an annual science day, where they are encouraged to experiment and explore. During normal routines staff extend children's learning and talk about their families and events in their lives. A computer with educational programmes is available to foster children's interest in information communication and technology. Children look at the weather and have visitors to the group.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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There are lots of activities that children access to develop their fine manipulative skills such as threading and lacing and large scale movement skills. However, organisation of space sometimes restricts movement. Children have opportunities to throw and are learning to use scissors with increasing control. They are developing an awareness of a healthy lifestyle during the routines of the session.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children explore and talk about colour shape and texture during the session. They sing familiar songs with obvious enjoyment and actions. Three and four-year-olds play imaginatively and take on different roles in the home area but this could be made more inviting. They can access some art materials, but more consideration needs to be given to letting the children develop their own ideas, so they gain skills to enable their creativity to have expression.	
Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.	

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT: THE KEY ISSUES

- provide more opportunities for children to access writing materials in the role play area, develop their own ideas and make their own creations so enabling their creativity and imagination to have expression
- ensure children's progression by continuing to develop the observations and assessments of the children and linking these into future planning.

The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.