

Little Hippos

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY377172
Inspection date 08/12/2009
Inspector Lara Hickson

Setting address Knockhall Cp School, Eynsford Road, GREENHITHE, Kent,
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Type of setting Childcare - Non-Domestic

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Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

There were no children on roll when this inspection took place. The findings in this report are based on evidence gathered from discussions with those who care for the children and an inspection of the premises, equipment and relevant documentation. Where there are no children on roll, no judgement is made on the quality of the early years provision as there is no reliable evidence on which to assess its impact on children. The report states if the provider continues to meet the requirements of registration.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the setting

Little Hippos out of school club was initially registered in 2007 and re-registered in 2008 following a change to the registered person. It operates from Knockhall Primary School in Greenhithe, Kent. The out of school club has the use of a large hall, separate male and female toilets, a fully fitted kitchen and a separate crafts room with toilet and kitchen facilities. The out of school facility also has the use of an outside area. The premises are suitable for wheelchair users.

Little Hippos is registered to care for up to 18 children aged from four years to under eight years. The out of school club operates every day term time only from 15:05 to 18:00. Children may attend for a variety of sessions each week. There are three full time staff who work with the children, two of whom hold an appropriate childcare qualification. There are currently 18 children on roll, five of whom are in the early years group.

All children attending are from Knockhall School. The provision is on the Early Years Register and both compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register as children up to the age of 11 years also attend. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but does include the provider's confirmation of compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Little Hippos after school club is clearly not meeting the care and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Although there were no children on roll in this age range the care of children on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the childcare register gives concerns that would also affect the care of those in the Early years age range. For example, there are a number of breaches to regulations which would impact on children's safety and care within the setting. Health and safety within the setting is inappropriate and has an impact on children's ongoing safety. Children are able to walk around eating their snack with no intervention from the core staff which compromises their safety. Although the provider did intervene on one occasion she is not at the setting consistently to ensure children's behaviour and safety is fully promoted.

Children's safety is also compromised when they initially arrive at the setting as staff are busy trying to set up activities and this has an impact on children's behaviour and again has safety implications. For example, children are observed climbing on chairs, throwing coats and book bags around and play fighting. During the after school session there are minimal activities that challenge and stimulate children and again this impacts on their behaviour. Although resources are stored in cupboards and on low storage units children do not access these independently and activities are chosen by staff upon arrival giving little choice to the children. As a result children are often wandering around interfering with each others play and climbing on furniture. Although staff are seen reminding children of the dangers of climbing on furniture they do not encourage children to choose alternative activities or involve them in a game. Management of behaviour by staff is inappropriate at times and does not encourage positive behaviour. For example,

staff do not always approach children behaving inappropriately but call across the room for them to stop what they are doing. This does not demonstrate clear boundaries for all of the children and leads to others ignoring pleas from staff to behave appropriately.

Staff within the provision demonstrate some understanding of the EYFS framework and how they will meet the needs of the younger children they care for. However observations and assessment have been undertaken on children in Year one who are no longer within the Early years age range which signifies a lack of understanding of the requirements of the Early years Foundation Stage.

The provider is present for some of the unannounced inspection and it is apparent from discussions that there have been changes regarding the management of the setting that Ofsted have not been informed of. For example, the provider moves between two settings she is registered for and has organised supervisors in both of these settings, only one of whom has had a suitable person interview. However Ofsted have not been informed of either of these changes which is a breach of conditions.

Compliance with registration requirements

In order to continue to meet the requirements of registration, the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant matters of a change of Manager 30/12/2009
- develop staff's awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development (safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 30/12/2009
- The provider must take the necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children by improving arrival routines within the setting (safeguarding and promoting welfare) 30/12/2009
- The provider must promote the good health of children by ensuring appropriate supervision is in place at snacktime 30/12/2009
- ensure all staff have an appropriate understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and observation and assessment arrangements 30/12/2009

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner (both parts of the register) 30/12/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- ensure the behaviour of children over the age of eight years does not have a negative effect on younger children. 30/12/2009