

# Discovery School Out of School Club - Kinder Group Limited

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY318135
<b>Inspection date</b>	12/11/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Elizabeth Dickson
<b>Setting address</b>	The Discovery School, Discovery Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4GJ
<b>Telephone number</b>	01732 847000
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Type of setting</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic

## 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.

## **Description of the setting**

Discovery School out of school club is one of several out of school clubs run by Kinder Group Ltd. It operates from Discovery School and serves pupils from Discovery Primary School and Kings Hill Primary School. It has links with both schools. The club has use of a room, the school hall and kitchen. It has access to the school playground for outdoor activities and play. There are no issues which may hinder access to the premises. The club operates a collection service from Kings Hill Primary School.

Discovery School out of school club is on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. It is registered to take a maximum of 52 children under eight years at any one time. There are currently 30 children on roll. Of these, eight are within the early years age group. The club is open each weekday from 15.15 to 18.00 during term time and from 08.00 to 18.00 during school holidays. The club employs four members of staff, all of whom are appropriately qualified.

## **Overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

The club provides well for children's care and learning. Enthusiastic staff provide children with a range of interesting activities within a safe and secure environment. Children's involvement in planning their play and learning promotes their self-esteem and independence. It ensures the views of all children are respected.

The management are key in driving improvement to ensure the needs of all children are fully met, and are currently looking at ways to develop closer links with early years practitioners at the two schools the club serves. The management's self-evaluation is not yet fully developed, but the recently appointed manager shows a strong commitment and determination to improve the provision.

## **What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?**

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- ensure that all staff receive child protection training
- continue to develop systems for sharing information between the schools and after school club, in order to gather information about children's starting points, and identify the next stages in their learning

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

The setting is clean and well organised, and staff pay close attention to ensuring that children's welfare, safety and care are given high priority. The owners implement rigorous vetting procedures to check that staff are suitable, well qualified, and hold appropriate first aid qualifications. Risk assessments for all

activities are carried out regularly, ensuring that hazards are identified and minimised. Regular staff appraisals identify relevant training needs, for example, the management have taken steps to organise up to date training in child protection. Staff are fully committed to meeting the needs of children and recognise the importance of working closely with other adults involved in the children's care. The management have correctly identified the need to build closer relationships with staff at the two nearby primary schools, to complement younger children's learning at school.

Children are routinely consulted about their preferences for activities, and these choices are fed into the weekly plans. This ensures that the interests of all the children are catered for, and that decisions are highly inclusive and child-led. All equipment available is age specific.

The management of Kinder Group Ltd work closely with the recently appointed manager of the club to identify ways in which the club can improve its provision for the Early Years Foundation Stage. The issues identified at the last inspection have been fully addressed. All policies and procedures have been revised recently to ensure they meet the legal requirements. Although the process of self-evaluation is at an early stage of development, the manager takes steps to reflect upon current practice, and has already developed a clear understanding of what needs to be done to make the provision even better, so there is good capacity for improvement. Future plans are well targeted to bring about further improvement to the provision, for example, developing closer partnerships with the Early Years practitioners in both nearby primary schools, incorporating a key worker system and changes to the food menu available to children. Staff form friendly relationships with parents, exchanging verbal information on a daily basis. Parent questionnaires help inform the staff and management of their views and enable parents to have a positive impact on and involvement in their children's care.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Children are escorted by staff to the provision whilst travelling on the school bus and from within the school building. They arrive happily, enthusiastically greeting their friends of different ages, and quickly absorb themselves in activities. They have good opportunities to develop their skills in all areas of learning, supported by attentive and committed staff.

Children develop their independence and capacity to make decisions when they choose which activities and resources they will use from the wide range on offer. One girl, helping to tidy up, said 'I like choosing the dolls' house'. There is a good balance between free-choice quiet activities when they arrive after school and more exuberant activities on offer after snack time. They sit together to share snacks of fruit, ham, bread and jam, and chopped carrots. Staff encourage independence in expecting children to butter their own bread and pour their own drink. Children show an understanding of the rules and routines of the club. For example, they gather quietly and quickly for register, and sign their names on a list if they wish to use a particular piece of equipment. Children show a good level of interest in what they do. They play for long periods of time with resources and are

fully occupied. Staff talk to children whilst they do this, and encourage children to think of different ways to do things. Children particularly enjoy taking part in the physical activities involving balls and hoops in the hall, providing ample opportunities for them to develop their coordination. They practise hard at trying to aim and throw balls, bean bags and in balancing hoops. Children of all ages play harmoniously together, and older ones take care to ensure that younger ones are not left out. Children gain a good awareness of cultural diversity through celebrating festivals such as Diwali. There are further plans to set up a resource library so that children can have access to a wider range of texts.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	2
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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## **Annex B: the Childcare Register**

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