

# The Den

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY360828
<b>Inspection date</b>	13/11/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Sue Hunt
<b>Setting address</b>	Aston by Sutton Primary School, Aston Lane, Aston, RUNCORN, Cheshire, WA7 3DB
<b>Telephone number</b>	07809 644086
<b>Email</b>	dan.sivland@hotmail.co.uk
<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

The Den Out of School Club has been open since 2005, but re-registered in 2007 following a change of ownership. It is privately owned and operates from a designated classroom within Aston by Sutton primary school, situated in the Aston area of Runcorn. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time, the average, though, is 13 children.

The club is registered on the Early Years Register and on both of the Voluntary and Compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. It is open each weekday from 07.45 to 09.00 and from 15.15 to 18.00, term time only. Children have access to the school grounds for outdoor play. The club serves the children attending the school. There are currently 26 children aged from three to 10 years on roll.

The club employs three members of staff including the manager. Of these, two hold appropriate qualifications in early years and play work.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The Den provides effectively for the children in their care and children are safe and secure at all times and enjoy the social interaction between themselves and the staff. As identified in the last inspection, there is a lack of planned and structured activities to occupy the children at the breakfast club, and the food provided for breakfast by the club is not always healthy. There are good partnerships with parents and with the school and parents speak well of both the early morning and after school provision. There is no system of self-evaluation to identify areas for improvement. However, since the last inspection six months ago, the club has addressed three out of the four points for further improvement, therefore the club is fairly responsive in improving the service to the needs of all of its users.

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

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

- plan for structured activities to encourage children to use their imagination and help their economic well being
- make full use of the EYFS documents to self-evaluate and improve the effectiveness of provision
- provide more healthier options for breakfast.

## The leadership and management of the early years provision

The provider and manager are committed to improving the provision and work closely with the staff team. Staff feel that they are encouraged to share their ideas and that their views are listened to and acted upon. The classroom designated for use by the club is not always ready at the end of the school day, however, there

are no problems early in the morning and the presence of the children does not hamper the teacher setting up her classroom for morning lessons. On dry days the children play outside for 15 minutes before school starts joining their peers in the play ground. Progress since the last inspection has been good and the setting has a good capacity to improve, although the EYFS documentation is not used to support effective self-evaluation systems.

Good safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and effectively implemented to ensure that the children are well protected. All the staff are trained first aiders and there is a comprehensive induction procedure in place for new staff. The relevant reference material regarding the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and government booklet regarding child abuse are easily accessible to staff.

The manager and staff work well with parents and carers. Children are happy and secure and parents leave confident in the knowledge that their children are safe and well cared for. Additionally, parents talk about the very helpful and flexible arrangements they have with the club. An information booklet for parents is provided and this informs them of the club's policies and procedures, and they share information about how the children have been within the setting.

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

The atmosphere in the club is relaxed and staff have a friendly approach towards the children. This enables children to feel welcome, happy and settled. There is a suitable range of resources on offer to occupy the children, such as board games, drawing and construction. However, activities are not planned and there are no organised activities during the hour and fifteen minutes of Breakfast Club. Children spend a lot of time chatting with the staff, with each other and with their teachers as they pop in and out of the classroom which is the designated breakfast room. There is little evidence of activities and what the children do in the club around the school on wall displays. In addition, children's choices and opportunities to use their imagination and develop economic well being, are somewhat limited and they spend most of their time chatting or wandering around the room. Although, children did have fun playing a card game with staff.

Staff are familiar with each child's individual background and needs. They have a positive attitude towards inclusion ensuring that every child is able to fully participate in any activity. Children respond well to staff's consistent approach to expected behaviour which helps to develop their understanding of right from wrong. They are familiar with the rules and routines of the setting and are confident enough to explain them to others.

Staff have a thorough understanding of how to create a safe and welcoming environment in which risk is minimised and they carry out regular risk assessments, which are recorded as required by the EYFS. The club does not promote very healthy eating practices at breakfast as there was no fresh fruit or vegetables on offer and the choice was very limited.

## 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>	3
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>	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
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>	3
<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?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

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

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

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