



Kids United

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY271055
Inspection date	22 January 2007
Inspector	Anne Mort
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Registered person	Lynne Sudworth
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kids United Out of School Club is privately owned and opened in 2003. It operates from four rooms of a primary school which is situated in the Springfield area of Wigan. It serves the children of the school with before and after school care and extends its services to the local community during school holidays.

A maximum of 40 children may attend the setting at any one time and there are currently 140 children on roll. The setting currently supports children with specific needs. All children share access to the outside play areas of the school.

The club is open each weekday from 07.30 to 09.00 and again from 15.20 to 18.00 in term time. The holiday scheme also operates five days a week from 08.00 to 18.00.

The setting employs five staff. Three regular staff members work with the children, of whom two hold a suitable play work qualification. The third member of staff is working towards gaining a recognised qualification. An additional two members of staff are employed in holiday care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have ample opportunity to develop their physical ability. There is a range of resources to promote physical development. These enable children to practise fine and gross motor control. For example, indoors, children use scissors, pencils and colouring pens. Outside, they access the various play areas of the school, for instance the tyre area, and use outdoor equipment either individually or in team games.

Staff fully consider a child's age, interest and ability and planning ensures time for children of similar ages to play together. Children of all ages laugh and enjoy the freedom of movement as they play a 'snowball game' indoors. This consists of using scrunched up pieces of paper to throw at each other and staff join in, creating a lively, happy atmosphere.

Consideration is given to cleanliness and rooms used are clean and tidy. Children practise good hygiene habits with hand washing a part of the daily routine. However, at the time of the inspection not all toilets were clean and suitable for use.

Children's health and safety in other areas is very well supported as staff have had first aid training and detailed recording of accidents is taking place. All reasonable steps are taken in the matters of food preparation and delivery. The school cook is employed to provide food in the after school club and members of staff who hold a food hygiene certificate prepare meals in holiday times.

Children understand what constitutes healthy eating and are involved in planning the menu. They are offered healthy and familiar foods, such as waffles, ham, sweet corn and wedges. Children's needs for drinks are well met as they can access their own water bottle and a fresh jug of juice is presented at snack time.

Children's dietary needs are given full consideration. Parents have the opportunity to note any special requirement. Their wishes are respected and staff work in consultation with them to provide children with a healthy, balanced diet that accommodates parental preference.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is thoroughly promoted. They have a safe environment in which to play as risks are minimised due to the diligence of the staff. Written risk assessments of the premises are carried out with control measures noted. Staff present the physical layout of the resources in the hall with care, to ensure an uncluttered floor and clear walking space near doorways. This allows children to play independently and explore the activities on offer.

Children are completely at ease in the well organised environment and move freely and with confidence. This is due to staff's vigilant but not overpowering supervision. Staff monitor the presentation of play materials to make sure they are interesting and support children's developing skills. Children are given complete free choice whether to be busy or quiet and select activities from a range of resources that include drawing materials, construction and shared games.

Staff keep children very safe in their care. When attending the club, younger children are escorted from their classroom and staff meet older children at the door of the hall. The children are booked in. There is a buzzer entry system to the school building. Staff allow persons known to them into the provision to collect their child at the end of a session. They then sign the register to note the child has left their care.

Children are protected from harm by the manager's precise knowledge of child protection issues. Their welfare is given paramount importance by the procedures in place and documents held about child protection. The manager has attended a relevant course and ensures all staff are made aware of their role and of policies and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are relaxed with each other and are absolutely secure in the staff's care. Staff present and effect a friendly, supportive atmosphere for the children throughout the inspection time. Children are enthusiastic and make their own decisions whether to play alone or in a small group.

Their self-esteem is extensively promoted in the neat display of their joint or individual work. Children have ample opportunity to develop their concentration span, artistic ability and pencil control. They freely draw and colour with no interruption or involvement by the staff. They are free to submit one of their own drawings and there is an award at the end of the week for the one chosen to be displayed. Older children share responsibility areas, one of which is to be on the judging panel.

Children choose from a variety of interesting resources. They are motivated and interested due to the commitment of the staff who plan and present stimulating activities, such as creativity sessions and outside games. Forward planning is undertaken and this is sometimes done on a particular theme. This gives children purposeful and developmentally appropriate opportunities to acquire knowledge of the world around them. For instance, children worked on the theme of animals and visited the local dogs and cats home. To broaden this experience the manager arranged for a veterinary person to visit the club and staff from a Birds of Prey centre.

Children rapidly develop their conversational language and are confident speakers. Staff use age appropriate and stimulating conversation, ask questions and listen to the children's response. Children have a complete sense of belonging and know they can ask for additional or different resources, for instance, a child politely asked for scissors and later in the session children asked if they could play the snowball game.

Children engage in fun and laughter due to the staff providing rich, varied and imaginative activities. For instance, arranging a temporary stage and suitable clothing and wigs to create a well known talent competition that children know from the television where the judges give their view regarding the singing ability of a participant. Children spend their time purposefully or at leisure, thoroughly enjoying their time with each other and with the staff.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's needs are very well met as they take part in a care routine agreed between staff at the provision and the parents. All children are welcome in the provision and the manager and staff are pro-active in providing inclusion as they welcome and fully support children with specific needs.

Staff are committed to the children and treat each child with respect, taking time to listen to their conversation and answer any queries. Children's input is valued and they have a sense of belonging. Older children are given areas of responsibility and even young children's self-esteem is boosted, for instance, being the drinks monitor.

Staff work in a calm and consistent manner and as a result children are very well behaved. They quickly develop self-control, good manners and an understanding of the needs of others. They take part in deciding the rules of the club, which are on display.

Children are supported and supervised by staff and choose where to play. This develops their independence and they choose to engage in activities that interest them, such as drawing, games consoles, garage and car play, or simply to sit together, chat and relax after the more formal school day.

Children's care and well-being is fully supported. Parents note on documentation all relevant details about their child to enable appropriate care to be given. There are arrangements in place for staff to exchange information about a child and the day's events when the child is collected. Partnership with parents is greatly enhanced by the staff's professional yet friendly approach, the information booklet made available to parents and the attractive notice board at the entrance to the facility.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's welfare and all round development is extensively promoted. Children are very secure and at ease in the well organised play environment. Staff are aware to keep children safe from persons who have not undertaken a vetting procedure. Staff are extra vigilant when on outings with the children and a place of interest is risk assessed beforehand to ensure its suitability and the children's safety.

Staff accommodate and stimulate children's conversation when supervising their play and introducing additional resources. They make suitable toys and activities available. When

developmentally appropriate, these are of a more challenging nature, for instance, board games with specific rules.

Children's care is significantly enhanced by exceptional organisation. Documentation evidences the manager's commitment to providing a high standard of care for all children. It includes well written policies and procedures that are a true reflection of the first rate practice of this setting. In addition to this several certificates illustrate the interest and commitment of staff to update their knowledge base and keep abreast of current affairs in child care.

Paperwork is held that fully meets the requirements of the National Standards for out of school care. It is clear, concise and jargon free and relates directly to the planning and delivery of a good out of school care service. Documentation is robust and fully supports the practice and knowledge of skilled practitioners.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection there was a recommendation to consider the usage of the toilet facilities within the school to ensure children's privacy. In addition to this that sufficient equipment be made available to meet the developmental needs of the children.

Both recommendations have been addressed. Children can access a toilet that gives complete privacy. Forward planning of activities and additional resources allow all children to practise their developing skills.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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 good. 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):

- protect children's health by ensuring the toilets are always suitable for use.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk