

Kids Kingdom

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY257078
Inspection date	28 March 2007
Inspector	Susan Marriott
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Registered person	Kids Play Ltd.
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kids Kingdom (Kids Play) opened in 2003. It operates from Kettering Leisure Village in the town of Kettering and serves the local area. Kid's Kingdom offers before and after school care and a holiday club. Accommodation is on two floors. The ground floor is used as a children's play centre, with toilets, and kitchen. The 'club room', which is the main playroom, as well as toilets and an office, are situated on the first floor. Children are picked up from a number of schools over the whole of Kettering.

A maximum of 48 children may attend the club at any one time. There are currently 15 children aged from four to 13 years on roll for the after school club and numbers on roll vary for the holiday club. The after school club opens from 15:00 till 18:30 during term time, and the holiday club from 08:30 to 18:00 during school holidays. The club is able to support a number of children with learning difficulties or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

Two full-time staff work with the children and three play-work staff from the centre assist with school pick-ups on a daily basis. The manager and her deputy hold relevant Early Years qualifications appropriate to the post.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment where they begin to learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through the consistent daily routines. They stay healthy because the staff encourage them to follow clear procedures to prevent the spread of infection. For example, children wash their hands before snack time and dispose of any food waste or rubbish into the waste bin afterwards. Children receive appropriate treatment in the case of medical emergency because both staff members retain a suitable qualification in first aid. The first aid box is adequately stocked and there are generally clear procedures for recording accidents and medication. However, the current accident book does not fully support staff in complying with the National Standards. Sick children are excluded from the club to prevent the spread of infection. Children of all ages are able to rest according to their needs at the end of the day in areas equipped with soft furnishings, books and games consoles.

Children have plenty of space in which to play but most club activities are indoors for the majority of the year. The fields surrounding the leisure centre are used for ball games during holiday club when the weather is dry and warm. However, children have the opportunity to enjoy regular daily exercise on the soft-play indoor activity area for half an hour at the end of every club session. This facility helps children to run off any surplus energy, to develop their self-confidence and contribute to their good health and physical development.

Children are provided with a healthy fruit snack and a drink when they arrive at the club. Although staff hold basic food hygiene certificates, they occasionally overlook correct food preparation procedures which potentially compromises children's welfare. For example, staff do not always remember to wash their hands before preparing apples, and omit to wash the fruit before serving to children. The staff work hard to take account of children's requests and meet their dietary needs. The club provides a menu that appeals to the children. A cooked tea is supplied from the activity centre kitchens, but some meals contain chips, burgers and other foods with a questionable fat, sugar or salt content.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally safe, secure and confident in the club environment. Staff prepare the environment as best they can to make the premises warm and welcoming for children and their parents. Although noise levels increase rapidly in the hall, children respond readily to staff when using recognised signals for gaining their attention. Staff have identified and minimised risks on the premises for children. For example, socket covers are in place and staff carry out and record a daily premises check. However, fire drill practice is insufficiently frequent to ensure the safety of children, contrary to the club's own policy statement. Staff have a secure knowledge of the club's safety procedures for collecting children from schools which they put into practice effectively. However, staff use their own cars for transporting children and relevant documentation is not currently up-to-date. This potentially compromises children's safety whilst travelling from school to the club.

Children use an excellent range of safe play resources which are age-appropriate. Resources are set out for children each day and additional items accessed for children on request. Each age group has a dedicated and separate, quieter area of the room where children may rest and

relax or play quietly after their day at school. Staff have a clear understanding of the procedures to follow if they have concerns relating to child protection and this ensures that children's welfare is appropriately safeguarded. However, if responding to an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff, the policy document does not provide clear guidance for staff to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have lots of fun within the friendly and welcoming environment of the setting. They know the daily routine well and this helps to make them feel confident and secure. For example, they put their personal belongings into named boxes and the staff ensure that they greet each child and check as to whether they have had a good day at school. Children spend their time purposefully and the staff join in with play at the children's level. Children are divided into two age groups and activities are separated. However, children can choose to play at the 'integration table', where the two age groups intermix under direct staff supervision. Staff show the children how to play a game of 'Spoons' followed by memory game similar to 'Pairs'. The children relate well to each other and enjoy the company of other children and staff. There is a varied range of resources and activities which are used effectively to interest children and develop their learning. Children take part in organised games, play on the games consoles and watch television. Some enjoy quieter activities such as quizzes, reading, board games, construction, and a wide range of crafts.

Children can choose to participate in themed activities. For example, displays of work on the walls show a wide range of artwork based around the theme of America. A delightful display of monster creations shows that children use their imagination. For example, one 'monster' is labelled as scary, hairy, Mary, who only comes out at night and lives in the hair brush. Plans of activities and play opportunities offered to the children demonstrate the wide range on offer. Children are very well supported by the staff who take an active role in their sessions at the club and encourage them to extend their experiences by listening and talking to them. Children's concentration is good, they stay focussed on their chosen activities and respond excitedly to the challenges set. They happily participate in quizzes, puzzles and brain teaser games and enjoy the competition with other children of all ages.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. They develop self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and make choices and decisions. For example, children take responsibility for monitoring turns on the games console and football table by keeping their own list of players. Children readily chatter to the staff whilst they play and staff always make time to listen to groups or individuals. Children can put forward their ideas for activities and snacks through written or verbal contributions. Staff plan activities to promote a positive view of the wider society and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others.

Children generally behave well. They know what is expected of them because they discuss and help to write the club's safety and behaviour rules. Children identify meaningful values, and notices around the hall remind them to 'treat each other as equals', 'sit nicely', 'do not swear' and 'listen to each other'. Staff talk to the children regularly to ensure they understand the

behaviour boundaries. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities integrate well within the group and staff provide sensitive support when required. Equipment and resources are adapted to ensure all children are able to participate fully. All children respect and understand that some children need extra help and willingly support those who do. Children show care and concern for each other, and play together harmoniously. Relationships with parents are friendly. Staff make parents welcome and value their feedback. Effective use of the notice boards and a daily dialogue with parents ensures information is shared appropriately. This promotes continuity of care and children's sense of security.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

There are not always two members of staff on duty in compliance with the National Standards. Self-evaluation and monitoring systems are not yet sufficiently established to ensure consistent progress towards the highest standards of childcare. However, positive outcomes are promoted for children through the increasingly effective organisation of the setting. The committed and dedicated staff team ensure that children benefit and enjoy their time at this welcoming and friendly provision. Staff respect children's feelings, value their comments and clearly enjoy their company. The children obviously feel at home and at ease in the club environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play. Planning is essentially flexible and promotes children's care and development. The staff team are well-qualified and work effectively as a team to promote children's health, enjoyment and achievement at the club. Generally appropriate documentation underpins the successful organisation of the club and helps staff in their day to day work with the children, providing a useful source of guidance and reference. A registration system is in place but occasional lapses in the signing out procedure mean that staff are not always aware of how many children are to be accounted for at any given time. At the time of inspection, a child had not been signed out on the previous day. Therefore, the system is liable to inaccuracies which may potentially compromise children's safety. The provision has reliable systems to cover for unexpected staff absence throughout the year. This ensures that ratios are always maintained and that children receive consistent levels of adult attention and input to secure their happiness. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, one recommendation was raised. The setting was asked to ensure that sufficient and suitable equipment and materials are available for the children. An inventory of equipment is now kept and this is regularly updated to take account of items which have been damaged and thrown away, or new items which have been purchased. This is proving a useful tool for monitoring the resources available and meeting the suggestions made. The action taken has improved the outcomes for children by ensuring that there are sufficient, suitable equipment and materials available to provide stimulating activities and play opportunities for the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require the provider 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 satisfactory. 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):

- ensure that a suitable record is maintained, signed by the parent, of any accidents
- ensure that food and drink is properly prepared and nutritious
- ensure that fire drills are carried out periodically and that current records are kept about vehicles in which children are transported, including insurance details of named drivers
- clarify the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer
- review the system for registering children on a daily basis showing hours of attendance and ensure that there is a minimum of two adults on duty at all times.

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