

Elmwood Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	316363
Inspection date	26 April 2007
Inspector	Susan Elaine Heap
Setting Address	Elmwood Primary School, Elm Street, Middleton, Manchester, Lancs., M24 2EG
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Registered person	Jennifer Berry
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?

Elmwood Kids Club operates from Elmwood Primary School in Middleton, Rochdale. It opened in October 2006 and operates from the hall and two classrooms within the school. A maximum of 32 children may attend at any one time. The setting is open each weekday from 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.30 to 18.00 Monday to Friday, term time only. All children have access to an enclosed play area.

There are currently 55 children aged from three to under eight years on roll. The setting currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties.

The setting employs six members of staff. All of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment. Their health is supported through satisfactory hygiene practices, such as staff giving them reminders to wash their hands

after visiting the toilet. They do not routinely wash their hands before accessing drinks or biscuits when coming in from outside play, as a result, children are not developing a full understanding of the importance of personal hygiene. Children's health and dietary needs are satisfactorily met through the staff working with parents to identify and record allergies, special diets or specific medical needs. Their health and welfare is further promoted by sound systems being in place for the recording of accidents and medication. In addition, three of the staff have completed the required training in paediatric first aid. Children are able to rest when required by using the soft seating in the library or by participating in a less challenging activity, such as drawing.

Children have some opportunities to learn about healthy living through discussions with the staff about foods that are good for them, and often these follow on from the activities which they take part in within school. However, they have few opportunities to increase their understanding of healthy eating or play an active part in the setting, such as making their own healthy snacks. Children are adequately nourished as they make choices about what they will eat when they make their selection from a range of breakfast cereals or toast at the breakfast club. Afternoon snacks often consist of toast, biscuits and occasionally fruit. They know when they need refreshment when they come in from outside play and independently choose from water, milk or orange juice to keep their bodies well-hydrated.

Children particularly enjoy playing in the outdoor area with their friends in the sunshine and this is actively promoted on a daily basis. They participate in games of football, team games or access the school adventure play area. A group of children take great delight in taking part in an obstacle course involving hula hoops and skipping ropes. As a result, children are developing a healthy attitude to physical exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment. There are some physical constraints to the building which impacts on what children can access, for example, they do not or always have access to the hall due to after-school activities taking place. This means that children have to use one of the classrooms, and their play activities are not readily accessible to promote their independence or the continuation of any planned activities. They have access to a range of safe, well-maintained toys, resources and equipment, which are presented at tabletop or floor level to encourage them to make choices in their play.

They are cared for in a safe in a secure environment through sound safety precautions being in place, such as a comprehensive risk assessment of the building and staff complete daily visual checks of areas used by the children. Staff are particularly vigilant when children are playing outside if unfamiliar adults or children approach the school grounds; these are redirected to ensure children's safety. Children develop a good understanding of fire precautions by being made aware of, and the practise of, regular fire drills within the setting; these follow the school's procedures. As all children who attend the setting also attend the school, this ensures consistency and familiarity with the procedures. Children are learning to keep themselves safe as the staff consistently give explanations about not running in the room, safety with scissors and encourage children to turn the skipping rope appropriately so that they do not harm others.

All of the required procedures are in place to safeguard children's welfare and keep them safe from harm. The child protection policy has regard to the local authority procedures, which includes the contact numbers for reporting any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled in the friendly and relaxed atmosphere of the setting. Relationships between the children and staff are good. Their confidence is promoted by the positive relationships they have with the staff who give them support where needed but also allow children freedom to express themselves. Children are given good attention and staff ask questions and initiate discussion with them during their play. They are given praise and encouragement by a caring staff group. As a result, children are confident and self-assured in their play.

There are many opportunities for the children to play cooperatively together, for example, taking turns playing card games or setting up an obstacle course outside. They clearly enjoy each other's company as they smile, laugh and chat together and engage in a broad range of interesting activities both inside and outside. Discussions with the children show that they enjoy coming to the after-school club as they can choose how they spend their time and play with their friends.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and their individual needs are fully discussed with parents prior to attending the setting. Children are gaining awareness of the wider world through play resources reflecting positive images of all aspects of diversity. They are learning to respect and value others as individuals because children with learning difficulties or disabilities are warmly welcomed into the setting.

Children are beginning to have some input into the setting and their views, likes and dislikes are heard through the use of questionnaires; this begins to give them a sense of ownership. They behave well and clearly know what is expected of them as the staff consistently praise and encourage them, or give explanations. Staff show a good understanding of how to manage children's behaviour and work successfully in partnership with school on this, to ensure children receive clear consistent messages.

There is a notice board and information booklet for parents with sufficient information regarding the setting. Staff are invited to talk to parents at the schools new intake meeting in the summer to make them aware of the service offered. Information is exchanged verbally with parents on a daily basis, and, as some of the staff also work within school, they also pass on important messages from the class teachers when necessary. Discussions with children and parents show that the staff are approachable and accommodating to parents changing needs, often at short notice, and offer appropriate support when necessary. Although there is a complaints procedure in place, staff are unaware of all the required elements that need recording to ensure they are fully compliant with the requirements of the National Standards. Parents speak highly of the staff and the care offered to their children. They say the staff are friendly and approachable and that children are happy and enjoy coming to the club.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for by a staff team who have a sound knowledge and understanding of child development. They show commitment to ensuring their knowledge is up-to-date by

attending first aid and child protection training. There are systems in place to ensure appropriate ratios are met at all times which maintain children's safety and welfare. Staff work effectively together as a team to ensure that children are happy and settled in their activities.

Recruitment and vetting procedures are satisfactory, however, some records are not available for inspection and induction procedures are not sufficiently robust to support children's well-being. Policies and procedures work in practice and generally meet the requirements of the National Standards. These are currently in the process of being updated to reflect changes and improve service delivery.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to ensure that documentation was stored safely and confidentially and that the public liability insurance certificate was displayed.

Documentation is now stored confidentially and the public liability insurance is displayed on the notice board in the hall. These have improved the overall organisation of the setting and children's care.

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 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):

- improve opportunities for children to increase their understanding of healthy eating through the provision of healthier snacks
- improve knowledge and develop systems for the recording of complaints, in line with regulations
- ensure that a record is kept of the criminal records check for staff and is available for inspection at all times
- develop induction procedures to ensure that all staff understand the setting's policies and procedures.

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