

Kids in the Hall

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY349235
Inspection date	18 July 2007
Inspector	Jayne Utting
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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 in the Hall out of school club was first registered in 2005 and is now based in the hall of St Andrews First School, Heddon-on-the-wall in Northumberland. It is located in a semi rural setting and is close to local facilities. Children who attend come mainly from the host school though other children are also welcome. The setting can accommodate a maximum of 26 children and has 21 currently on roll. Children have access to the school playground and a nearby adventure playground for outdoor play. Hours of operation are 08.00 to 09.00 and from 15.15 to 18.00 from Monday to Friday in term time. Holiday care is subject to demand and will operate from 08.00 to 18.00 from Monday to Friday.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where they begin to learn about the importance of good hygiene and personal care throughout their daily routine. They willingly help to clean tables before snack time and know to wash their hands before meals and after messy play and visiting the toilet. Children are well protected from the spread of cross

infection due to staff's vigilance and well maintained procedures for cleaning. For example, staff wash their hands before preparing food and have completed relevant food hygiene courses. Staff hold valid first aid certificates and the effective recording of all accidents and emergency contacts promotes children's health and well-being.

Good daily opportunities are provided for children to be active or rest according to their individual needs. Children have access to an outside grassed area where they enjoy activities such as football, running, skipping and playing with bats and balls. They also have regular access to the school adventure play area and local park where they can develop their climbing and balancing skills. Space is arranged inside for physical activities when the weather is bad and children thoroughly enjoy playing team games, skipping and dancing to their favourite music. Staff commitment to the promotion of physical activity helps children to keep fit and to learn that exercise is lots of fun.

Staff actively promote healthy eating ensuring that children receive a range of snacks that are healthy and well balanced. Children enjoy a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables including grapes, apple, carrots and cucumber and are encouraged to try new tastes including water melon and blueberries. Snack time is well planned ensuring that children gain good social opportunities. For example, they sit together at the table and talk about their day at school. Staff also use this as an opportunity to talk about healthy food choices. Staff and parents discuss any specific dietary requirements a child may have whether for religious, cultural or medical reasons and the relevant information is recorded. This helps to foster good partnerships with parents and ensure their wishes are met. Children have free access to drinks throughout the session and are offered suitable drinks such as milk and water.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure environment where they are supervised closely by staff at all times. This enables children to move around safely and independently. The arrival and collection of children is well planned and staff have an up to date record of persons with permission to collect children.

Internally many safety measures have been taken with smoke alarms and socket covers in place. Staff are vigilant regarding safety and effectively implement procedures to minimise risks. For example, a recent, detailed risk assessment has been undertaken for the premises and this is reinforced through the completion of daily assessments of the facilities and resources, prior to the children's arrival. The process of visual risk assessment is ongoing throughout the session. Electrical and fire safety equipment is regularly checked by the school and kept in a safe condition and there are good fire safety procedures in place with up to date records of practise evacuations. The club employs effective safety procedures on outings including maintaining ratios, carrying a mobile phone and emergency contact details as well as taking appropriate equipment including drinks, snacks, sun creams and a first aid kit as necessary. Written consent from parents is obtained prior to any outing. This helps to safeguard children.

Children are also encouraged to develop an awareness of the need to preserve their own well being and that of their friends. This is achieved by gentle reminders from staff such as requests to keep off the stage steps and to ensure legs are tucked in so others don't trip over them when playing team running games. Children respond very well to these requests and it helps them take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe.

Children are well protected by staff who are confident and secure in their knowledge of child protection policies and procedures. This is reinforced through a clear written policy and staff training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the group and are, on occasion, reluctant to leave when they are collected. Staff actively seek the views of the children when planning activities which gives them a sense of belonging and ownership. As such children choose from a wide range of stimulating, interesting and varied activities including building dens and craft activities.

Children are enthusiastic about the activities available to them. Several children make tribal hats with colourful feathers which they wear when making a huge den from chairs and blankets and pieces of scrap material. Children are extremely confident, keen to use their own ideas and take a sense of pride when they display their finished collages of tigers and other endangered animals.

Children's independence and confidence are promoted very well. They select freely from very well organised resources and are guided by staff to extend their learning. Children have good relationships with other children in the group. They chat happily to each other, make pictures and certificates for their friends to take home and enjoy making up dance routines. They have secure relationships with adults and are happy to ask them to join in with their team circle games. As such they enjoy sensitive and caring relationships with staff who know them well and inspire them with their own enthusiasm.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the staff's positive attitude towards equal opportunities and respecting individual and differing needs. There are good opportunities provided for children to learn about their local community and the wider world through a variety of planned activities, play materials and spontaneous discussions. Children are able to gain an awareness of different cultures as they participate in a range of celebrations including Chinese New Year and Diwali. Children talk about the different countries they have visited and practise speaking in a variety of languages including Italian, French and Spanish. Staff aim to ensure that activities within the club reflect the culture and background of all children who attend. Children have access to a range of multi-cultural toys, books and images that reflect positive non-stereotypical roles, racial and cultural diversity and disability. Staff work hard to ensure that the individual needs of all children are met and that they are cared for in a consistent and appropriate manner, collecting good comprehensive information from parents in order to achieve this.

The club is proactive in its approach to working with children with learning disabilities and difficulties. Staff have previous experience of caring for children with such needs, show a good understanding of this area and are happy to undertake additional training as required.

Staff are calm, competent and good role models. They have realistic expectations of children's behaviour and implement a range of good strategies to promote positive behaviour and help children to learn right from wrong. Children respond well to meaningful praise and encouragement, all of which contributes to the development of their social skills, confidence and self-esteem. For example, they help tidy up, share toys and resources, and help one another.

Children are polite, well behaved and enthusiastic to take part. They are encouraged by staff to take an active role in club life, sharing their ideas for activities and outings and devising rules for the club.

Staff have developed positive relationships with parents and pass on information about what children have been doing at the club that day. They encourage children to take work home and to talk about the activities they have undertaken. A range of information is displayed for parents on the notice board ensuring they are well informed about the setting, planned activities and the care and welfare of their children. However, whilst a comprehensive complaints procedure is in place, Ofsted's contact details are not readily displayed. This makes it difficult for people to contact the regulator should they wish to.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for by an experienced, dedicated and trained staff team. Committed to ongoing personal development, all staff have undertaken a number of recent courses including first aid, food hygiene and manual handling. All staff are subject to appropriate recruitment, vetting and induction procedures. This ensures that they are aware of their roles and responsibilities, and confirms their suitability to work with children.

All required records are in place and up to date and these are maintained in a confidential manner. Most of the required documentation is also available, although the club does not currently have in place a statement of the procedure to be followed in the event of a child being uncollected. This is a mandatory requirement in the regulations and impacts on the overall security of the club.

Staff take a professional approach to their work. Committed to the children in their care, they are fully involved in their play and have developed secure relationships with them, ensuring they feel safe and comfortable within the group. Staff use their time and resources appropriately, ensuring they set out the room before the session starts and remain focussed on the children throughout their time in the club.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- provide a statement of the procedure to be followed in the event of a child being uncollected, in line with regulations
- ensure Ofsted's contact details are readily accessible to parents.

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