

Kids Club (Godmanchester)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	259670
Inspection date	02 August 2007
Inspector	Jean Goodrick
Setting Address	Godmanchester Community Primary School, Park Lane, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 2AG
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Registered person	Kids Club
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?

Godmanchester Kids Club opened in 1999. It operates from its own mobile building situated in the grounds of Godmanchester Community Primary School. The club is registered to accept up to 60 children at any one time. Opening times are from 08.00 until 08.45 and from 15.00 until 17.30 during term time and from 08.00 until 17.30 during the holidays.

There are currently 190 children aged from four to 11 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. During term time children at the school attend the club and during holidays children from the other local primary school may also attend. The setting currently supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Sixteen staff work with the children, some of whom are also employed at the school. Over half the regular staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. One staff member is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting is a member of the Kids Club Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy an excellent range of physical activities in the school's extensive playing fields. They benefit from the fresh air and exercise and when numbers allow there is free flow between indoor and outdoor play so that children make their own choices. They enjoy ball games, learning traditional games, such as 'bulldog', and using roller blades in the enclosed hard surface area. Children also make very good use of the community swimming pool in the school grounds and the outdoor apparatus.

Children's good health is promoted and they are protected from cross-infection by effective hygiene routines; they understand the importance of personal hygiene and wash their hands before meal times and after using the toilet. Staff act as good role models, wiping down surfaces before serving food to help children to stay healthy. Children receive appropriate treatment if they have an accident or need medication and clear records are kept, although accident records are not always signed by parents. Children's well-being in an emergency is a priority, and most staff have current first aid certificates. However parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment has not been obtained and this has the potential to adversely affect children's welfare.

Children are well nourished as parents provide packed lunches and the club supports the school's healthy eating policy. Snacks include healthy options, such as melon and oranges, and the tea time menu includes pasta, hot dogs and toast with different spreads. Drinking water is always available so that children are well-hydrated. Children enjoy cookery activities and experiment with new tastes. They enjoy good social interaction at snack time as they sit together indoors or outside in the pleasant picnic area. Their individual dietary needs are met as clear information is gathered from parents about allergies or special dietary requirements and this ensures that children can eat safely. Children's families are known well and sensitive support is offered when, for example, there has been a family bereavement.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe, well-maintained environment where risks are minimised, so that they are able to move around safely and independently under the constant supervision of staff. There are effective procedures to ensure children's safety, for instance, fire drills are held regularly so that children learn to keep themselves safe and safety procedures in the swimming pool are followed conscientiously. Good use is made of walkie-talkies to keep track of children's whereabouts. Staff check the outdoor play area before children go outside to play.

Very effective use is made of space in the mobile to provide an excellent range of activities. Resources are plentiful and age-appropriate. Children choose independently from, for example, art and crafts, books and comics, construction kits, and computer games. To provide variety staff change the selection regularly and undertake regular checks to maintain quality and safety.

Children are well protected because the staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of the child protection policies and procedures which help keep children safe from harm. Staff attend training regularly to keep their knowledge and understanding up to date and they refer to relevant information from the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Parents receive written information about policies so that they are clear about the club's responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children really enjoy their time at the provision. They are happy and settled and form very positive relationships with the staff and each other in the welcoming 'family' environment. Children enter the club confidently. They greet staff and each other with pleasure and settle quickly to their activities. Children are supported by a very caring and responsive staff team who work well together and who provide plenty of opportunities for the children to have fun, take on challenges and have time to relax. Staff listen and respond to the children with warmth and respect. Children of all ages get on well together playing outdoor games together and creating large collages with themes such as the under the sea and in the jungle. Staff show an interest and enthusiasm in what children do, and keep a good balance of joining in with games and allowing children to 'do their own thing'.

Activities are varied, interesting and very well organised so there is an excellent choice available. For example, water fights outside are a favourite in the hot weather. Children become absorbed in creative activities, such as painting and drawing, floor activities such as Lego constructions, table top games, pool and outdoor ball games. They also relax with a video or on the computer and chat to their friends. Staff have an excellent understanding of child development and encourage children to develop their skills and follow their own ideas and interests. Older children sometimes help to organise activities so they develop a sense of responsibility and 'ownership' of the club.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are highly valued and respected as individuals. All children are warmly welcomed to the provision. Children's needs are clearly understood by staff as the setting gathers clear information from parents and this contributes to children's well-being. Children and their families are very well known to staff as some children attend the club for several years and they have a strong sense of belonging. Children access a wide range of resources and activities which promote a positive view of the wider world and staff create an environment where children learn to understand their differences and similarities. There are excellent systems in place to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Staff are exceptionally well qualified and experienced and they work closely with all those involved so that children's needs are met.

Children behave very well and demonstrate a clear understanding of what is expected of them as a result of familiar routines and consistent expectations. For instance, they contribute to a set of rules for the club. Children eagerly share resources, solve problems and work together. They develop independence and take on appropriate responsibilities as they help to put things away, for example, after the game of cricket, and they regularly help to prepare their snack. Older children show concern for younger children at the club.

Children benefit from the excellent relationship between staff and their parents. Clear information is gathered from parents which enables children to receive good continuity of care. Written information is provided for parents so that they are informed about the setting and activities. They also have daily opportunities to discuss their children with staff. Parents give glowing reports about the care their children receive and the availability of the staff. They say that their children really enjoy mixing with the wide age range.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff organise time, space and resources very effectively so that children can move around safely and independently, selecting their own resources and initiating their own games. Children enjoy an excellent range of activities, both indoors and outside, and they have time to relax and let off steam after their day at school and during the holidays. There are high adult to child ratios so that children receive good levels of individual attention and support as needed and they are well supervised.

Children benefit from the system of ensuring that staff working with children are vetted. The club has sound recruitment procedures to ensure that staff have appropriate skills to work with children. Staff are exceptionally well qualified and experienced and regularly attend training to improve their practice for the benefit of all the children. The club has a comprehensive range of policies and procedures which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being. Required documentation is generally in place and kept up to date and confidentiality is respected.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was agreed that the club's policies would be made available to parents so that parents are clear about all aspects of their children's care. Staff have produced a leaflet for parents giving a comprehensive summary of the club's policies. The leaflet is a part of the information pack given to all parents. Parents are also invited to read the full edition of the club's policies which is kept in the office. Therefore, parents are now clear about the policies and procedures of the club which contribute to the health and safety of their children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- obtain parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice and ensure that accident records are always signed by 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