

KidsOut at Summercroft

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY272103
Inspection date	16 January 2008
Inspector	Sarah Johnson
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Registered person	Linda Davies
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?

KidsOut at Summercroft is a privately owned group. It opened in 2003 and operates from a demountable building within the grounds of Summercroft Junior School in Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire. The club primarily serves children who attend the junior school. The club opens five days a week during school term times and during some holidays. The breakfast club is open from 07:30 until 08:50 with an after school session from 15:15 until 18:30. The holiday club sessions are from 08:00 until 18:00.

The club is registered to care for a maximum of 20 children. There are currently 76 children aged from four to 13 years on roll. Children attend a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The club employs six members of staff. Of these, three hold appropriate qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is positively supported by staff who follow good procedures for health and hygiene. For example, staff demonstrate good standards when preparing and storing food as they ensure food preparation areas are cleaned with antibacterial spray and wear disposable gloves when handling food. Children sit together at the table to enjoy nutritional snacks including pieces of fruit and freshly prepared sandwiches with fillings of jam, cheese and ham. At the breakfast club, children have a healthy start to their day as they benefit from healthy breakfasts of toast, cereals, fruit juice and milk. Children help themselves to drinks from the tap when they feel thirsty, ensuring that they remain well-hydrated throughout the session. Children's dietary needs are met as the staff give full regard to the information provided by parents in relation to their children's allergies, cultural and religious requirements. This information is collated and shared amongst all staff so they are fully aware of each child's dietary needs.

Staff are mindful to remind children to wash their hands after using the toilet and before sitting down to have snack. The risk of spread of infection is prevented through the provision of individual paper towels. However, the children's health is potentially compromised as they do not always use soap when washing their hands and they share a single bar of soap in the toilet facilities. There is always at least one member of staff at the setting who is trained to administer first aid to young children and they can access a well-stocked first aid kit. Consequently, children receive good care if they have an accident. Children experience good continuity of care as detailed written records of any accidents are shared with parents and staff have clear procedures in place should they need to administer medication.

Children's physical play experiences are effectively promoted as they have the opportunity to play outdoors on a daily basis. They enjoy using a range of outdoor and sporting equipment including footballs and a basketball hoop. The children frequently access the school playground and field, providing them with ample space for playing team games and running around freely. During holiday club sessions, children enjoy activities out in the fresh air as they visit a local farm and soft play activity centre.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a child-friendly environment, where staff are effective in creating a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere. There is plenty of space in the two rooms used by the children, enabling them to eat and play together comfortably. The rooms are light and airy with very good ventilation through large windows that can be opened as required. The windows also offer a clear view of the playground, ensuring staff can easily gain attention of staff who are indoors if an emergency situation occurs. Although there is only one toilet in the setting, children benefit from accessing additional toilets in the main school building if needed. The toilet facilities are kept clean and are easily accessible, fostering children's independence. A good selection of equipment and resources are set out daily which enables children to choose how they spend their time, promoting their choice and independence. As a result, children are stimulated by the resources on offer and remain content throughout the session. Children's safety is promoted as staff ensure that equipment is checked regularly for damage and wear.

Staff are motivated in providing a safe environment in which children can play as they identify hazards and minimise risks during regular risk assessments and daily checks during sessions. Effective procedures ensure children's safety. For example, the main door is locked from the inside and the identity of visitors is monitored by staff to ensure unauthorised access is controlled. Staff are deployed effectively to ensure that children are well supervised at all times. As a result, children play safely as they move freely between the two separate rooms and the playground. Children are protected from the risk of fire as the required fire safety precautions are in place and staff practise termly fire drills with all of the children to ensure they know what to do in the event of a fire. However, children's safety is potentially compromised due to there being no evidence of public liability insurance cover at the setting.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the staff are fully aware of their responsibilities to protect children. There is a clear written policy in place for child protection, which includes an appropriate procedure to follow if an allegation is made against staff. The policy is reinforced by a good range of written guidance documents relating to safeguarding children, ensuring staff have all the information they need to follow up a concern and prioritise children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and secure as they spend time with the friends they have made at the setting. They develop a strong sense of self-worth as staff show a genuine interest in what they say and do and take time to listen to them. For example, throughout the session, the children initiate conversations with the staff, readily sharing information about their time at school and demonstrate their friendships by making rings as gifts for the staff to wear. Children's independence and sense of ownership is fostered as they are encouraged to take responsibility for everyday tasks such as handing out cups and plates at snack time and helping to tidy resources.

The organisation of activities is planned well, ensuring resources are rotated regularly and children are provided with a wide range of play experiences. Staff sometimes seek the views of children when planning activities to ensure they remain engaged in activities which meet with their interests. They particularly enjoy activities which foster their imaginations and creativity. For example, children enjoy making models from clay and look forward to painting them when they have hardened. Children of all ages play well together. Older children negotiate with each other to develop their ideas through drama and singing and relish the opportunity to show their performances to the younger children and staff. Their love of performing is supported further as they enjoy opportunities to use an electric guitar and keyboard. Children effectively share popular resources such as the games console, ensuring all children have equal opportunity to access activities that interest them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel valued by staff who respect their individuality and ensure they are able to fully access resources and equipment which meet their individual needs. They develop a good sense of belonging as they take pride in showing staff their finished creative work. Children become aware of diversity through activities celebrating events such as Chinese New Year and reflecting different cultures in displays. The setting has a positive approach to supporting children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and staff are proactive in working with parents which

helps them to effectively support children with specific needs. Children benefit as the staff commit to learning some basic sign language and source advice from outside professionals concerning children's behavioural needs. A clear written policy details all support and intervention processes which are in place. As a result, staff have a good understanding of how to best support children to access and enjoy all aspects of the setting.

Children's behaviour is good as staff use a range of positive strategies to support children's behaviour, including consistent praise when they are helpful or kind to others. Children are supported to share resources and to play well together. For example, when younger children struggle to wait for their turn on the computer, staff remind them that they will have a turn when their name is at the top of the list and they skilfully distract them with alternative activities. Children understand clear expectations and boundaries. For example, they are encouraged to apologise after they have dismantled a model made by another child.

Children benefit from the friendly relationships which staff foster with their parents. Parents are welcomed by enthusiastic staff when they collect their children and information is shared verbally to provide continuity of care. Parents are provided with access to the policies and procedures and are kept fully informed of special events and updates via regular letters and daily discussion with staff. A complaints policy is made available to parents, which ensures they are aware of the procedure to follow should they have any concerns.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by caring staff who are committed to offering a fun and safe environment for children to play and relax during out of school hours. They are safeguarded by sound recruitment and vetting procedures, which are in place to ensure that they are never left alone with adults who have not been suitably vetted. Children benefit from well-qualified staff who access ongoing training to ensure they continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of good practice. For example, the manager has completed a short course in promoting positive behaviour in early years settings and has booked places on courses covering first aid and safeguarding children.

Sessions are well organised and staff work well together as they have clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Children experience good levels of supervision and individual attention from staff as the required adult to child ratios are consistently met and staff ensure they spend a majority of their time interacting with the children. Effective staff deployment and use of space ensures that the number of older children attending the setting does not impact negatively on outcomes for children under eight years. The written policies and procedures are reviewed regularly and work well in practice to promote positive outcomes for children. All the required documentation and consents are in place and stored securely to ensure children are cared for in line with their parents' wishes. Children's safety is maximised as the daily registers include the actual hours of arrival and departure for individual children.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to: ensure the premises are secure and children are not able to leave them unsupervised; ensure the system for registering children's attendance on a daily basis, showing hours of attendance, is maintained accurately and ensure staff are

trained to have an understanding of safety requirements for the environment in which they work.

Children's safety is no longer compromised as systems have been introduced to ensure children are not able to leave the setting unsupervised. For example, the main door is secured with an internal lock during sessions and children routinely check with staff before they can go outside to play. In addition, the registers of attendance include the actual hours of attendance for each child, ensuring staff have the information they need should an emergency situation arise. Children play in a safe environment as all staff gain an understanding of safety requirements through their involvement in regular risk assessments.

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):

- review the procedures for hand washing to ensure the risk of spread of infection is minimised
- ensure public liability insurance is in place at the setting.

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