

The Gap Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY272423
Inspection date	13 February 2008
Inspector	Amanda May
Setting Address	King's Court First School, Ashbrook Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 2NE
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Registered person	The Gap 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Gap Club opened in 2002. It operates from the main hall in Kings Court First School in Old Windsor. The club also have use of the art room, cloakroom, toilets, library and outside play areas. The group serves a number of schools in the local area. The provider also operates an After School Club at Englefield Green School.

There are currently 50 children on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting provides support for children who have learning difficulties and disabilities.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 15:00 until 18:30. During school holidays they are operate a play scheme registered for 64 children.

Five members of staff work with the children. They all have appropriate early years qualifications and have current first aid certificates. The group receives support from the Early Years Childcare Service.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The provider follows effective procedures to protect children from illness and infection. Children are fully involved in developing their awareness of a healthy diet as they enjoy participating in activities, such as, helping to prepare a fruit salad to enjoy with their friends. Children remind one another to go and wash their hands, before they begin peeling and chopping a variety of fruit. A cook is employed to provide children with hot snacks, such as garlic bread and home-made pizzas, which they enjoy sitting together with their friends around the table. During fine weather, some children choose to eat their meals outside.

Drinking water is available for children to access at any time and children confidently pour their own drinks before carrying it to the table. Children enjoy being active, and spend much of their time playing outside on the field and play-ground. The setting has a range of equipment for children to access, including stilts, balls and skate-boards. Children are encouraged to think about how they can use the equipment in different ways, and are creative as they link wheeled boards together to make a train.

Accidents and the administration of medication are dealt with effectively. Staff seek written consent from parents before medication is administered, and copies of all records are given to parents after they sign to acknowledge this aspect of their child's care. Emergency medical consent forms are in place for each child, ensuring that emergencies can be dealt with effectively and that children's health is protected at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children access a range of equipment which is safe and of sound quality, whilst being appropriate for the range of children who attend the setting. Children develop their awareness of safety as they are reminded during play about being careful and aware of the other children around them. Children demonstrate a sound understanding of keeping safe, as they develop their awareness of fire safety. Organised drills are arranged by staff and children develop their understanding of how they can ensure their own safety in an emergency. Staff log details of when fire drills have been carried out, and list the amount of children and staff present, as well as how long the setting took to evacuate. Walkie-talkie systems are used to ensure staff can communicate effectively, particularly when children are enjoying outside play. Staff are generally deployed effectively to support children in their play and activities, however, this is not always the case.

The setting is secure and procedures are in place to ask visitors to sign a visitors book on arrival at the setting. As the club operates in school grounds, the setting is secure, and access is gained through a buzzer and intercom system. A password system is also in place to ensure that children are collected by a known adult in discussion with parents. Staff protect children through their sound understanding of issues surrounding safeguarding children. A secure written procedure is in place which provides useful information to parents, however, the supervisor has not yet received training to ensure she can support staff and children effectively if concerns were raised. Although the provision plans to implement a system for recording existing injuries that children may attend the setting with, this is not yet in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children experience a varied range of interesting activities which contribute very well to their development both inside and outside. Activities and resources are well planned, ensuring that children can participate in a range of different play opportunities. Children choose from the resources put out, however, staff demonstrate their awareness of ensuring children are kept stimulated and involved in the activities on offer. Staff encourage children to make choices in their play, and provide opportunities for children to decide what activities they would like to play with. Children are confident and self-assured in their surroundings. They enjoy a close relationship with peers and staff as they chat and laugh together whilst making valentines' cards. Staff encourage children to be creative and praise and encourage them well.

Children are independent and confidently arrive at the setting before putting their belongings in the storage area. Children greet their friends happily, before choosing from a range of planned activities on offer. Children develop their confidence as they are given special responsibilities, such as snack monitor. They eagerly wear the badge which children have designed. They carry out their duties with pride, and demonstrate a sense of responsibility and achievement as they help to look after their friends and help staff with their special jobs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The setting develops good relationships with parents and shares information effectively through the use of registration forms and encouraging parents to look through written policies when they first visit the setting. The supervisor has recently taken on the position and has plans to display the most important policies for parents to view independently, allowing information to be shared more effectively. Parents are greeted warmly by staff when they arrive at the setting to collect their children. Staff are available to discuss with parents how children have been at the setting, and to answer any questions or provide support where necessary. Children benefit from receiving the opportunity of attending a free session before they take a place at the club, to decide whether they like it. Parents are also encouraged to attend the setting for a preview, having chance to discuss children's individual needs such as dietary requirements and any learning difficulties and disabilities.

The setting provides support for children with learning difficulties and disabilities, and staff demonstrate a good awareness of their needs. Individual plans are in place to support children who require it in their play and care. Staff are encouraged to undertake training in order to develop their awareness of how to support children with particular needs effectively in their play and development. There are currently no children who attend the setting who have English as an additional language. However, signs have been put in place to welcome people in a number of different languages and also to direct children to the toilets. The supervisor discusses children's individual needs with parents, and is eager to implement procedures in order to support all children with their needs. Children develop a good awareness of social diversity as they access resources and celebrate festivals from around the world. Children celebrate Chinese New Year as they make fans decorated in Chinese writing and symbols. Staff encourage children to make posters, practising how to write in Chinese. Other festivals celebrated include Ede and Diwali, where children develop their awareness of other beliefs, whilst making candle holders to take home to their parents.

Children remain stimulated and interested in their activities, and close relationships are evident amongst their peers. As a result, behaviour at the setting is generally good. Staff demonstrate a clear awareness of children's individual needs, and support these effectively. Children enjoy being given some responsibilities during their time at the setting, and staff encourage children to think about each other's feelings as they play. Parents are encouraged to read about the setting's 'behaviour promise' in their parents welcome pack. This helps to ensure consistency of care and provides a chance for parents to discuss with children the setting's levels of expectations, particularly regarding good behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The provider organises space effectively to provide children with a range of opportunities for different activities. Children enjoy free-flow play into the outside area, where they can access a range of resources, whilst having lots of space to run around and be active. Documentation and policies are in place, however, some policies and procedures lack clarity and are not clear enough to ensure parents can fully understand the setting's procedures.

Recruitment procedures are generally followed and references are sought for staff along with completed application forms and employment history checks. However, information is not shared effectively and the supervisor of the setting is not kept informed by the registered provider, which members of staff hold a current enhanced criminal records check. Therefore it is possible for un-vetted staff to be left unsupervised with children. As a result, a regulation has been breached and children's safety is compromised.

Staff have a general awareness of how to best support children in their play and care, however, when the setting becomes busy with parents collecting children, staff deployment is not effective. Staff are encouraged to update and develop their knowledge and understanding through accessing a variety of courses and training workshops which are provided in-house with all staff. The documents required are in place and are effectively organised to ensure their security and that confidentiality is maintained at all times. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, the provider was recommended to ensure that all records relating to day care activities were readily accessible on the premises. The provision ensures that children's records and parental contact details are kept on the premises at all times when the club is in operation. However, records relating to the recruitment and suitability of staff are not available for the supervisor to access at all times.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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):

- ensure that training is provided to develop staff awareness of issues surrounding safeguarding children and that a system is implemented for ensuring existing injuries are recorded and acknowledged by parents
- re-organise policies to ensure that they provide clear and concise information, which is effectively shared with parents
- ensure that staff are deployed effectively at all times to ensure children are supervised consistently and supported effectively during their play
- devise strategies for ensuring that suitability checks, including enhanced CRB disclosures, are in place for all staff, and details are shared effectively with the supervisor of 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