

# Creative Steps Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique reference number** EY335406  
**Inspection date** 24/06/2009  
**Inspector** Martyn Richards

**Setting address** Furze Infant School, Bennett Road, ROMFORD, RM6 6ES

**Telephone number** 01708 852338

**Email**

**Type of setting** Childcare on non-domestic premises

## Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

## Description of the setting

Creative Steps Out of School Club is a privately owned out of school provision. It operates from two large designated rooms at Furze infants school in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. It was registered in 2006, and is located in a residential area of Romford. A total of 26 children between the ages of four and eight may attend the club at any one time, and not more than 20 of them may be in the early years age group. Older children also attend the setting, which is open from 14.45 to 18.00 each weekday in term time. At present there are 37 children on roll, five of whom are in the early years age group. Children attending come from Furze infants and Warren junior schools. They share access to a secure playground for outdoor activities. Four staff work with the children and all of them have appropriate childcare qualifications. One is working towards additional qualifications. Creative Steps Out of School Club is registered on the Early Years Register, the compulsory Childcare Register and the voluntary Childcare Register.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the provision of Creative Steps Out of School Club is a good. Children enjoy coming to this happy and well organised club. Staff know them well as individuals, and provide enjoyable opportunities for learning, play and rest at the end of the school day. It is a safe and welcoming setting for young children. The club benefits particularly from its very good links with its host school, and is always looking for ways to further improve its good provision.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- extend the process of systematic self evaluation to include the contributions of all stakeholders
- sharpen assessments so they provide a clearer picture of individual children's development in selected area of learning and development

## The leadership and management of the early years provision

The manager and her staff work very effectively as a team. They are well qualified, and regularly undertake extra training to develop their skills. Some staff also work in the host infants school and this means they know the children's individual needs very well, and can ensure activities are right for them. The registered provider himself is a member of the school's governing body and this also helps ensure good working relationships between the two settings. As a consequence of these close links and friendly communications, staff in the club are able to make good provision for individual children with particular educational needs.

Staff give high priority to ensuring the safety of the children. Careful checks ensure

that adults working in the club are suitable, and that the activities and facilities provided are safe. The rooms and outside areas are secure from intrusion, and careful records are kept of any visitors to the setting. Very thorough procedures are in place in the event that a child might not be collected at the agreed time, or that the person collecting a child may not be known to the club. Staff have been trained in important welfare areas such as child protection, and food hygiene and safety. Accidents are very rare, but detailed records are kept, and parents are fully informed. Several staff have specific training in paediatric first aid.

The club leaders and managers are keen to make the club even better. They have carried out a self evaluation process to identify its strengths and weaknesses and to plan for the future. This good, systematic initiative is still at an early stage, and parents are not as fully involved in it as they could be. The helpful 'children's meetings' held by the club do not yet provide a more direct voice in this process.

Staff have acted on the recommendations of the previous inspection with energy, and are implementing the new national requirements for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Their impressive training record testifies to their commitment to enhance their own skills, and the club's effectiveness. The club has a good capacity to improve in the future.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

The club enjoys very good facilities in the school's nursery base and outside areas. It has adequate storage provision. Equipment, toys and materials are plentiful and in good order.

The activities provided are very well suited to the needs of the youngest children. They arrive from the host infant school earlier than children from the nearby junior school. They meet in a comfortable, enclosed book area, where they can curl up on cushions with a story to listen to, sing some songs or simply chat with the staff member about their concerns and interests. This makes a gentle and calming time at the end of the school day. These sessions are managed with skill by a staff member who knows the children well. She ensures quiet and polite behaviour, and children know that only the one holding the handed-around sunglasses can speak at any one time. Behaviour management such as this is unobtrusive but highly effective, and sets a good tone for the rest of the session.

Activities are well planned, and the club has worked with experienced early years staff from the host school to provide play opportunities which support the different areas of learning required for children of this age. There is a good balance of child-chosen and adult-initiated activities, making full use of indoor and outdoor facilities. While some of the activities provided illustrate a weekly theme, others, cooking for example, are valuable in their own right. New national requirements for assessments are being implemented, again with valuable support from the host school. All children have a personal folder with a photograph, some examples of their activity and staff notes on significant moments of learning or development. This is a good initiative, and staff recognise that more refinement of the observations is needed if they are to provide really useful information to promote

each child's growth and achievement.

Healthy cooked snacks, for example, pasta with a variety of toppings, are enjoyed by the children. Fruit and drinking water are always available. Children know about the importance of hand washing. They behave safely in the club, and contribute to it through periodic 'children's meetings'. Staff take children's views seriously, and adjust the provision in the light of children's responses. Children play happily together, share toys and equipment, and willingly help with the daily running of the club. These positive attitudes help them make the most of the club's provision, and are important for their future welfare.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	1

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	2
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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## **Annex B: the Childcare Register**

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met