



Hemdean House School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY308493
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Inspector Marie Thompson

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Registered person Hemdean House School
Type of inspection Childcare
Type of care Full day 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?

Hemdean House School operates an After School Club and a Holiday Care scheme. It opened in 2004 and operates from the Hemdean House Nursery, within the grounds of Hemdean House School. It is situated in Caversham, Reading, Berkshire. A maximum of 40 children may attend the After School Club and Holiday Care Club at any one time. The After School Club is open each week day, from 15:30 to 18:00, for 51 weeks of the year. The Holiday Care scheme is open from 8:30 until 17:00, during the school holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area and playing field.

There are currently 42 children, aged from three years to under eight years, on roll at the After School Club and Holiday Care Club. Children come from a wide catchment area, as most of their parents travel in to work in or around the surrounding area. The After School and Holiday Care scheme currently supports children with special educational needs and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The After School and Holiday Care scheme employs eight staff. Six of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted reasonably effectively by staff, who demonstrates some knowledge of the provisions' health and hygiene procedures. Children have an awareness of their own needs and are developing independence in their personal care. Suitable hand washing facilities aid the children's development in personal care and independence skills. Children know why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet, eating food and after playing or before preparing food, ready to do cooking activities, for example. This positively controls the spread of germs

Children's healthy growth and development are reasonably well met, as staff show a satisfactory understanding of their dietary requirements. Parents provide snacks and lunch boxes, which the staff ensure are stored appropriately. Children sit at the tables at snack time and enjoy the social interaction with other children, discussing activities undertaken and the day's events generally. Children are offered regular drinks throughout the day, which prevent dehydration.

Children enjoy physical exercise and learn about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle, as they join in free-play in the outdoor area or the playing field. Children organise themselves independently to play with equipment such the climbing frame and ride on toys. The children enjoy a short walk to the local park, which provides access to large play equipment, giving children plenty of opportunity to develop physical skills further.

The staff builds good relationships with the children making them feel secure. The staff know the children well, as they work in the school with the children during term time. Staff are responsive to children's individual needs, which allow them to learn and develop a variety of skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure in a reasonably well-organised environment. There is enough light in the premises for children to feel comfortable. There is a designated area for children to rest. Staff identify risks and minimise hazards, which enables children to

move around safely, freely and independently. The staff give priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety in the provision. Children develop generally good levels of independence to select from the resources available, which enables them to develop their own freedom of choice. Staff make a conscious effort to welcome every child and their family.

Children independently select activities from an adequate range of toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The staff carefully supervises children's choice of toys, to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children positively interact with each other, taking turns and initiating games between themselves. The staff have all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure the safety and promotion of children's welfare.

Children benefit from well-supervised outdoor play. Clear procedures for outings ensure children's safety at all times. Children learn about the Green Cross Code, when they are out walking, road safety and use pedestrian crossings whenever possible, which allows them to learn some sense of danger and to gain knowledge about how to protect them from harm.

Staff protect children's welfare through a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities in child protection. Staff are able to effectively and efficiently deal with all child protection concerns and there is documented evidence to support this.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well at the after school club and holiday club. They enter confidently and make themselves at home. They relate well to each other and socialise with other children, forming some close relationships. Staff sensitively interacts with children and is aware if they are tired or upset.

Children independently choose from the toys, books and activities which are available to them, although the range is quite limited. Children instigate their own games, for example making tents out of old blankets and collecting and counting pine cones. Children take turns, share ideas and enjoy this activity enormously. Staff play an important role in developing language skills, by talking to the children about their experiences and the games they are playing.

Children are adept in their physical skills. They move confidently between indoor and outdoor areas. They have good co-ordination and awareness of others, particularly on the climbing frame. The holiday club holds 'scooter and bike' days, when the children bring in their own equipment, which is great fun and encourages the development of physical skills and co-ordination. However, there is not sufficient outside equipment at the provision, especially for older children, which can be used on a regular basis. The staff recognises the value of play in children's development and encourages all children to learn to play and work together, in large and small groups as well as independently.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel respected as individuals and made to feel good about themselves. The staff talk to them about their home life and things that are important to them. Children enjoy walks through the local community to the park. However, they do not have the opportunity to appreciate, discuss or learn about the community around them through these excursions. Children have access to some resources that reflect positive images of diversity and their understanding of others, although these are limited. This does not develop children's knowledge and understanding of the wider community and others around them.

Children enjoy good, warm relationships with the staff and each other. Children develop a sense of self-esteem and confidence, as they voice their opinions and make choices and decisions. Children are well behaved. They benefit from staff who adopt a consistent and positive approach to behaviour management. Staff talk to the children regularly, to ensure that they understand the boundaries.

Although there are currently no children with special needs attending the after school club or the holiday club, the staff demonstrates a satisfactory knowledge of the fundamental principals of the Code of Practice. There are good systems in place to support children who have special needs. Close liaison with parents and outside agencies would ensure that all the children's needs are well planned for and met.

The staff have good relationships with all of the parents, which are friendly and supportive. Parents are informed of the provisions practice, ensuring the children's continued support and welfare. Parents feel welcome and value the staff's approach to caring for their children. They are very pleased with the care the staff offer and comment on how happy and secure the children are.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The premises are reasonably well organised. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise the children's play opportunities. Children feel at home and at ease in the environment. This means they are confident to initiate play and join in activities, which extend their learning and skills. For example, by designing their own Father's Day cards.

Staff members working with the children are quite enthusiastic, knowledgeable and promote the children's well being in line with the policies and procedures which are readily available to parents. All relevant documentation is in place, maintained to a good standard and is reviewed regularly.

Leadership and management are satisfactory. The registered person uses good recruitment procedures, which ensures that staff are appropriately vetted and most are qualified. However, the deployment of permanent staff does not meet the qualifications ratio. Staff demonstrate some understanding of their roles and

responsibilities. There is an induction and appraisal procedure in place within the school; however, this is not specific to the after school and holiday club.

The team members work effectively together and are happy. However, there is not an opportunity for staff to meet to evaluate and discuss further training and planning to develop their skills in organising the provision to meet children's individual needs.

The children do feel safe and secure in their environment, which allows them to play and have fun at the end of the busy school day. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not Applicable

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 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 there is sufficient outside equipment for older children
- ensure children have access to a broad range of resources and activities which reflect diversity and the wider community
- devise and implement an appraisal system specifically for the staff in the holiday and after school club
- make sure an induction procedure is in place which is specific to the holiday and after school club staff

- make sure the deployment of permanent staff meet the qualifications ratio at all times
- provide opportunities for staff to meet which will enable them to discuss and evaluate further training and planning to develop their skills in organising the provision to meet children's individual needs

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