

Lord Scudamore Kids Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223557
Inspection date	06 June 2007
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Registered person	Lord Scudamore Management Committee
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Sessional 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?

Lord Scudamore Kids Club was registered in 2000. It operates from the Lord Scudamore Primary School in Hereford City. A maximum of 50 children may attend the out of school club and 24 children in the playgroup at any one time. During term time the provision offers wrap around care with a breakfast club between 07.45 and 08.45, pre-school between 12.30 and 15.00. The out of school club operates between 15.00 and 17.30. During holiday periods the out of school club operates between 07.45 to 17.30. All children have access to a secure outside play area.

There are currently 32 children aged from three to under five on roll in the playgroup. Children on roll in the out of school club attend a variety of sessions with a maximum of 50 attending each session. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The setting employs six staff. Of these five staff hold appropriate Early Years and playwork qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted satisfactorily because the setting takes positive steps to promote the children's good health, and encourages them to begin to take responsibility of meeting their own health needs. Appropriate steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection and suitable measures taken when children are ill so that health needs are met. The person in charge ensures that accidents are responded to appropriately as there are sufficient staff who hold a current first aid certificate at all sessions. However, written parental permission to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment is not obtained for children attending the playgroup. This potentially compromises their health and welfare.

Children are very well nourished and have good opportunities to learn about healthy eating because the setting provides children with regular drinks and foods that are nutritious and complies with their dietary and religious needs. Healthy eating is promoted well; with children attending the breakfast club having a healthy breakfast before attending school. All snacks provided are healthy and of sufficient quantity to sustain the children. Activities to promote healthy eating such as making fruit salads and sandwiches with brown bread are used to raise children's awareness and understanding of what foods are good for them.

Children enjoy good opportunities to experience a range of physical activities and develop a wide range of physical skills. Staff in the playgroup provide opportunities for children to be active indoors and outside using free-play and exercise sessions to help children develop their co-ordination and range of movement. Children attending the out of school club make effective use of the outside play areas as they participate in a good range of sports and games using appropriate equipment. Children are well-occupied, able to be active and develop an understanding of the importance of healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment, that is safe, secure and suitable for its purpose. The environment gives children good access to a comprehensive range of facilities that successfully promote children's development. Staff prepare the rooms in advance, as a result, children are able to play as soon as they arrive which helps them settle. The rooms used are maintained at an appropriate temperature and well lit, making them comfortable for children. Good use is made of the outside play space which ensures that children have sufficient safe space to be engaged in physical activities. Children always use a wide range of equipment that is age-appropriate, suitable and safe. This is because the setting provides furniture equipment and toys which are appropriate for their purpose. They are of suitable design and condition, well-maintained and conform to safety standards.

Children's safety is promoted effectively because the staff take positive steps to ensure children's safety within the setting and outside and ensure proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents. Children are very well supervised ensuring they are safe when using the outside area. Staff in the out of school club have specific roles and responsibilities which they carry out to ensure the safety of the children. Children are learning to keep themselves safe because the staff talk to children about safety, how to behave when playing outside and the rules for playing indoors. They are aware of where they are allowed to play safely, and follow the rules

appropriately. Fire safety equipment is fitted and checked regularly to ensure the safety of the children; with exception of the fire blanket in the playgroup which is not fitted correctly to ensure that it is readily accessible. Emergency evacuation procedures are practised with the children to ensure they are familiar with the routine.

Children are well protected because the person in charge has a sound understanding of child protection procedures and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice. Key staff are supported by the person in charge and procedures implemented within the school. However, the playgroup manager has identified a need to update her knowledge and understanding of current child protection procedures to ensure children are fully protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children of all ages take part in a good range of activities which they find interesting and enjoyable. Staff interact well with the children, involving themselves in their play and offering appropriate assistance for their age and stage of development. Older children attending the out of school club are involved in making decisions about their club; their views are sought on activities and club rules. This means that children are able to develop their sense of belonging and ownership of the club. Staff provide a good balance of free-play opportunities and more structured activities which encourage children to make choices.

Children attending the playgroup are provided with a good range of activities and play opportunities which allow them to build on their natural curiosity as learners. This helps them to develop their language and mathematical thinking, use their imagination and develop their social skills. For example children explore and investigate mini beasts, playing with bugs and insects. They are able to practise their small muscle movements as they write postcards and use scissors to cut out pictures. Children form good relationships with staff and other children. They play harmoniously together, sharing and taking turns well.

Children attending the out of school club are able to choose from a very good range of activities and experiences. They are well-occupied after school and during the holidays because staff are experienced in providing exciting activities which capture children's interest and keeps them well entertained. Very good use is made of trips and outings. For example, children have visited the safari park, the Bristol Imax and a skating rink. This enhances children's play experiences and provides very good entertainment during the school holidays. Children's developing independence and confidence is supported well by staff who have a good relationship with the children. They respond positively to the friendly and approachable members of staff who actively organise a range of games and sports and encourage the children to try new activities and learn new skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's needs are being met effectively because the staff work very well with parents and carers to ensure all children are fully included in the provision and are well settled and happy. Information provided by parents is used effectively to ensure children's individual needs are met. Opportunities for children in the out of school club to further develop their independence and confidence through active involvement such as discussing suitable activities and writing the rules are used well. Children's behaviour is managed effectively in a way which promotes

their welfare and understanding of good behaviour. Positive attitudes are promoted through the good interaction with staff who use praise and encouragement to promote a positive attitude towards good behaviour.

The staff have regard to relevant anti-discriminatory good practice and ensures all children have access to an appropriate range of activities and resources which promote an understanding of diversity. Arrangements to ensure children with learning difficulties or disabilities are fully included in the provision are good because staff are able to provide suitable activities and play opportunities which ensure all children are integrated well into the provision. There is a good relationship with parents and carers. Parents are provided with clear information on the provision, staff are friendly and approachable and available to provide any information required by parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The organisation of the club and playgroup is good. Most staff have relevant Early Years and play work qualifications enabling them to provide a good level of care and a range of appropriate activities for the children who attend. Training is ongoing to ensure staff continue to update their knowledge of childcare related issues. Staffing ratios are maintained to ensure good supervision for children and staff have specific roles and responsibilities to ensure the smooth operation of the club. Recruitment and employment issues are managed appropriately and staff are well supported by written policies and procedures which are implemented to ensure the safety and welfare of the children. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection one recommendation was made to improve the quality of the out of school club. It was recommended that children continue to evaluate the play setting and use the information gained to further improve the provision. Good progress has been made in meeting this recommendation. Children's views on the activities provided are sought and they are involved in drawing-up and agreeing the rules and codes of behaviour for the club. This means that children are able to develop a sense of belonging and ownership of the club.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 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):

- ensure written parental permission is requested, at the time of the placement, to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future
- continue to develop staffs understanding of child protection issues
- ensure adequate fire detection and control equipment are readily available.

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