

Kents Hill Care Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY243271
Inspection date	11 October 2007
Inspector	Ann Hilary Guy
Setting Address	Kents Hill School, Birdlip Lane, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6HD
Telephone number	01908 240038
E-mail	kentshill@milton-keynes.gov.uk
Registered person	Kents Hill Care Club
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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?

Kents Hill Care Club is run by a management committee and is closely linked to the school. It registered in 2000 and operates from mainly the school hall and nursery building, with other rooms within the school used at times. It is situated in Kents Hill School, Milton Keynes.

A maximum of 32 children may attend the club at any one time, with restrictions in the Nursery of no more than eight at the morning or afternoon sessions and no more than 16 at the lunch time session. It is open each weekday during term time from 08:00 to 17:45. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 60 children aged from three to under eight years on roll. Children come from the local area and a wider area as parents work in the vicinity. The club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs 12 staff. Nine of the staff, hold appropriate Early Years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children greatly enjoy the wide range of physical play available to them throughout the various sessions. Those attending wrap-around care have free access, for the majority of the day, to the secure enclosed outdoor play areas, where they can ride bikes and scooters, climb, go on a see saw, play with sand, bark and water, paint, draw, read books and engage in a wide range of activities covering all areas of the curriculum. The club also has activities like a parachute that can be used both indoors and outdoors and the after school children have the opportunity of using not only the enclosed nursery/reception play area, but also the larger playground, activity trail and field. The club's children actively participate in the school's extra-curricular activities, such as after school football with MK Dons coaches.

Children greatly benefit from the opportunities to learn about personal well being and healthy eating through the topics within the wrap-around sessions and through discussion with staff at the before and after school (twilight) sessions. All meals provided meet the healthy expectations of the school guidelines. Children attending the lunch club have the option of either having a hot meal or a packed lunch from home. Extremely clear guidance is supplied to the parents to help them provide a balanced healthy lunch box for their child. Snacks of fresh fruit, milk and water are provided during the day, with breakfast and twilight clubs offering a balanced menu for the children. They provide three hot meals, and two cold each week in the twilight club. The menu is tailored to meet the children's dietary needs and operates on a three week rotation in order to offer plenty of variety.

Children remain in good health because the club offers an active play based day with a good variety of opportunities both inside and outside. They follow current and appropriate health and hygiene guidelines, policies and procedures, although alterations to practice are required to ensure the accident and medication recording is completely confidential. Children learn to be as independent as possible, with staff on hand to offer assistance as required.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The procedures and documentation, together with the extremely child-centred environment, ensures children are very safe and well looked after at all times. Daily stringent risk assessments, together with regular full health and safety checks of the entire premises, ensure which ever area the club is using, it is safe. The breakfast and twilight clubs mainly use the school hall although they have access to other areas of the school if staffing allows. The wrap around care is fully integrated into the nursery day and has a separate lunch time provision for these children, within the nursery building. Club staff fully integrate with nursery staff so children do not realise they are attending a different group.

Children have access to a very wide selection of toys and equipment both indoors and outdoors, which is age appropriate and stimulating for all the children. Staff are very good at adapting activities to meet the needs of the children and will listen to the children and involve them in planning for some of the activities within the breakfast and twilight clubs. All equipment is checked regularly for safety and appropriate to the age of the children attending.

Staff effectively assist the children in understanding potential risks, for example when using a knife to cut fruit and blender to make smoothies, using extremely effective open ended questioning. Regular fire practices at different times throughout the day, ensure all children are familiar with the evacuation process, and the robust registration system that moves round the school with the children, ensures staff know exactly who is present at all times. Safeguarding children is paramount to this group and all staff know and understand the child protection procedure and ensure the well being and care of all the children at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

All the children have their needs extremely well met in this very friendly and stimulating club. They always have a good range of activities including a craft or painting activity at breakfast and twilight club. Those attending wrap around care enjoy the full benefits of the very busy and active nursery curriculum, into which club staff fully engage with nursery staff and play an active role. The planning for breakfast and twilight club is completed by the play leader, and fully understood by all other staff members. Children have some input into the activities they would like at this time, and where possible these are included in the planning. The wrap around children have their activities planned mostly by the nursery teacher who works closely with the club staff.

Children make firm friendships with their peers and staff, and the older children help support and assist the younger ones, particularly during the twilight club. All children spoken to, enjoy the variety of activities and the opportunity to socialise during after school hours with their friends. Activities throughout the day offer stimulation, interest and challenge with an emphasis on free play. Children attending wrap around care enjoy the wide variety of experiences offered to the nursery children, including computer programmes, role play, small world play and a wide range of adult led activities. Throughout all the sessions, children discussed openly what they were doing and how they were doing it, with both staff and the inspector. They particularly liked making cards in the breakfast club and making smoothies during the wrap around care. Children in twilight club enjoy film night on a Friday where at the end of the session they watch a short DVD.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children attending the breakfast and twilight clubs feel a strong sense of belonging and those in wrap around care also have that sense of belonging but to the nursery and not necessarily the club. Staff work closely with parents to meet the needs of the children and ensure individual needs are met as effectively as possible. The topics and activities available within the different sessions, at times include different cultures and customs and special festivals. Children play extremely well together, with older children taking care of the younger ones.

Children with learning difficulties or English as a second language are well supported and fully included, with the high staff ratios enabling more adult attention if required. All children behave extremely well and the club follows the schools 'Golden Rules' for behaviour to ensure consistency throughout the day for the children. The partnership with parents is very good, Parents are warmly greeted as they bring their child and have the opportunity to discuss any issues with staff. Very clear information about the club is provided for new parents and regular

newsletters ensure they are kept fully informed about what is happening. The club is seen as an integral part of the school and not as a separate entity.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff have a very high regard for the welfare of the children, creating a warm inviting and friendly atmosphere within all the sessions. The policies and procedures, linked closely to the school policies, underpin the high standard of care offered, however some of these need slight amendment to fully reflect the specific needs of the club. All the policies and procedures are fully understood and implemented by the staff.

The well organised and planned daily routine ensures children remain happy and secure at all times and the play staff are well supported by the club manager and committee. Children benefit from the attention paid to staff's needs with a clear induction and appraisal programme, ensuring all staff, most of whom are part-time at the club, offer a similar standard of care throughout the week.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the club were asked to ensure the medication record is signed by parents to acknowledge every entry. This is now in place and all entries have been signed by parents.

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):

- ensure confidentiality is maintained in the accident and medication record books
- review the policies and ensure all information is relevant to the Care Club.

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