



Gads Hill School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY319491
Inspection date	03 July 2006
Inspector	Janette Mary White
Setting Address	Gads Hill House School, Gads Hill Place, Gravesend Road, Higham, Rochester, Kent, ME3 7PA
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Registered person	Gads Hill School
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?

Gads Hill Out of School Club opened in 2006 and operates from three rooms within an independent school. It is situated in the village of Higham, Kent. A maximum of 20 children may attend the out of school at any one time. The out of school club is open each weekday from 08.00 to 08.30 and 15.20 to 17.30 term time only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 18 children aged from three to under 12 years on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area. The out of school club currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The out of school club employs seven staff. All staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are aware of good hygiene procedures through the daily routines. For example, they know when and why to wash their hands and wipe noses, because staff explain the importance of doing so. They are confident about taking care of their own needs, they wash their hands and use soap from the dispenser after using the toilet. Children do not have sufficient opportunities to help themselves to easily accessible drinking water throughout the session. Children are able to talk about 'good' and 'bad' foods. For example, they know fruit and vegetables are good and sweets and crisps are bad. The children do not have an opportunity to access snacks.

Children explore and develop physical control in daily indoor and outdoor experiences. Staff have a keen knowledge of each child's stage of development. Their competent understanding means all the children are confident to try out new skills, ask for help when needed and set their own limits within the safe environment. For example, children are excited when playing in the garden with skittles. Children are protected through the use of records, such as the accident record which provides information for parents. Parents give written permission for emergency treatment. However, there is no written permission to seek emergency advice on behalf of their child. There is now a system in place to record when medication is administered to children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive happily and settle well. They benefit from playing in an organised environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. Staff are deployed and appropriately consider, the safety of the children at all times. There are procedures for the safe arrival and departure of children. Sufficient safety and security procedures are in place. For example, visitors are challenged and their details recorded. The opportunities for children to take part in outdoor activities and use some basic equipment to develop their physical abilities is satisfactory. Although, there is insufficient shade in the garden during warm and sunny weather. A fully enclosed safety surfaced outdoor play area has been equipped with sturdy outdoor apparatus suitable for children to use all year round.

Children's welfare is supported through child protection policies based on the Local Safeguarding Children Boards. Staff have an appropriate understanding of child protection issues and know what action to take if they have concerns about a child in their care. Although, most of the staff are less familiar with the procedure for

allegations of abuse made against them. A senior member of staff has attended recent child protection training. Children's safety is promoted through the frequent ongoing risk assessment and activities, which promote the children's understanding of how to keep safe. However, the emergency evacuation procedure has not been recently practised with the children. The displays of children's work shows that staff value children's contributions.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have good relationships with staff and are not afraid to ask for help and support. They are keen to participate in all the activities, particularly when staff provide good support and helpful suggestions. Children take part in a basic range of activities, which includes quiet or active play, and playing in the garden. Although, there are insufficient toys and resources to challenge or stimulate all age groups of children. Some activities are adult initiated, such as art and craft, and some offer free choice, such as playing with board games. Children enjoy this time at the end of the school day when they can relax or be active in accordance with their needs and interests.

The staff have a effective understanding of the range of experience required to enable children to make progress using their senses and creative abilities. Children learn to negotiate with each other as they share, take turns and organise their own games. For example, playing skittles. Easily accessible books and resources help to develop children's imagination and communication skills. Investigation through resources including sand and drawing helps children to represent their experiences and ideas, and make connections as they play. All of the children are enthusiastic and enjoy the outdoor activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

There is a policy on equality which promotes anti-discriminatory practice for all children. Children have access to a basic range of resources, toys and equipment to enable their individual development and understanding of the wider world. Staff work together to include all the children and enable them to participate in appropriate activities. Staff have access to some details on the children's contact records. However, this information does not include all the details relating to children's appropriate care needs. For example, language spoken at home. Examples of positive images are displayed promoting children's daily opportunities to develop a balanced view of society. The provision fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Children's behaviour is appropriate and they understand the group rules. Staff set effective boundaries for children, which helps them learn to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own behaviour. Staff actively support children in sharing and turn taking. Children's understanding of right and wrong is increased as they

respond to gentle reminders to care for the resources and each other. Children show a sense of belonging because they are regularly acknowledged and affirmed by staff. They are self assured and confident when making choices and seeking comfort or help. There is a complaints policy. The manager has some understanding of the policy for parents to make a complaint, but is less familiar with the complaints procedure. The parents are provided with a varied range of information on the service the out of school group provides. Parents are pleased with the service they receive and are able to verbally communicate with the staff regarding their child.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All staff, including the manager, are appropriately qualified and vetted, and children are never left alone with unvetted persons. The provider is continuing to improve the recruitment and vetting procedures. The current system for retaining staff's Criminal Records Bureau information does not meet the Data Protection Act. Staff are inducted and their professional development is addressed during regular appraisals. Records identify future planned training events. This means children's care, safety and wellbeing are promoted. Staffing ratios meet with requirements and children have space to move around and make choices as they play. The premises are organised so that children feel secure and comfortable. There are clear routines which are consistently used by all staff, promoting a sense of familiarity amongst the children. All staff work as part of a team. There are occasions when some children are not fully challenged by the activities, but they enjoy their play.

Policies and procedures contribute to the sound and safe management of the provision and help to promote children's welfare, care and development. Staff know and understand the procedure for lost and uncollected children. Records about individual children are shared with their parents. The daily record of the children's hours of attendance includes the time of departure, but not the time of arrival. The staffs arrival and departure times are not recorded. However, there is now a system in place to record the time of arrival and departure for both children and staff. The registration certificate is now displayed for parents on the notice board. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- continue to improve the children's understanding of fire safety precautions.
- ensure there is sufficient shade in the garden.
- ensure the retention of staff's Criminal Records Bureau information meets the Data Protection Act.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk