

Morton Out Of School Group

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY222163
Inspection date 13/11/2008
Inspector Carys Millican

Setting address Morton Community Centre, Wigton Road, Carlisle, Cumbria,
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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 report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

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

Morton Cool Kids Club is run by a management committee. It was first registered in 2003 and operates from within Morton Community Centre, near to the centre of Carlisle. The club provides out of school care for 24 children attending two local schools in the area. It operates during term time Monday to Thursday from 15.30 to 18.00 and on a Friday 15.30 to 17.30, and from 09.00 to 18.00 during school holidays. Children use a number of rooms within the community centre. There is wheelchair access to the upper floors of the building and accessible toilet facilities. The club uses the lounge, nursery, soft play room, large hall, small hall, youth room and gallery, with two enclosed outdoor play areas available.

There are 39 children on roll. Of these eight children are in the early years age group and 17 aged from six to eight years. The club provides facilities for older children up to the age of 11 years. The club also supports children with disabilities.

Morton Cool Kids Club is registered on the Early Years register, the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The club employs three members of staff who hold appropriate early years qualifications. The club is a member of 4children.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Morton Cool Kids Club provides good quality care for children in the early years and later year's age groups. They are provided with excellent opportunities to engage in a variety of stimulating and interesting activities within a safe and secure environment. Children benefit from the caring, friendly relationships established with qualified staff that recognise the uniqueness of each child attending. Children's individual needs are on the whole met well. They benefit from the positive approach to recommendations for improvement identified by the manager and staff to further develop the work of the after school club.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop the system in place for exchanging information with kitchen staff to ensure early years children's dietary needs are recorded
- establish links with the settings children attend during the day in order to compliment the learning taking place.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The manager and staff follow effective procedures to ensure the security and safety of all children whilst attending the after school club. One of the many ways this is maintained is through the robust recruitment and induction procedures implemented. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and paediatric

first aid certificates. They are highly motivated and experienced practitioners who undertake additional core training to keep themselves up-to-date with new legislation, such as the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff understand their job roles and responsibilities and work effectively as a team to provide support for all children. They monitor children's safety and well-being, and provide good levels of support for the children attending. The records, policies and procedures that support the setting and promote positive outcomes for children are effectively implemented and regularly reviewed by the centre manager. They are clearly understood by staff, viewed by parents in the setting and available in the prospectus booklet. All recording documents are meticulously maintained and the appropriate people notified as required.

Staff are committed to meeting the needs of all children and recognise the importance of working alongside other adults involved in the children's care. Staff speak to the teachers as they collect the children from school and pass on any information to parents on collection from the club. Regular meetings are held with the centre manager, manager and staff about the day-to-day running of the club and the facilities offered to parents and children. The manager and staff have a clear vision for future improvements and use their monthly meetings to discuss how best to implement their ideas and suggestions. Information regarding children's individual care needs is obtained from parents on registering to ensure continuity of care. Parents are extremely happy with the service offered to them and their children.

The manager and staff have a sound understanding of child protection issues, including the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a staff member. This policy and procedure is displayed on the notice board complete with the complaints policy and details of how to contact Ofsted. Children learn how to stay safe through instruction and confidently explain how they stay safe when playing in the soft play room. They understand what they must do if the fire alarm goes off and where they must go to. Detailed risk assessments are completed which focus on the areas used by children attending the after school club. Staff also complete daily visual safety checks to ensure indoor and outdoor areas are safe for children to use. Children walk to the community centre each evening using a 'walking bus' scheme.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children arrive happily at the after school club and settle into an established routine. They eagerly wash their hands before snack. Older children help set the tables making sure the early years children receive a plate and beaker. Children's healthy eating is promoted. They choose from milk or water to drink. Although children's dietary needs and allergies are recorded on their individual record forms and their likes and dislikes are obtained through questionnaires, these details are not passed onto kitchen staff.

Children access a number of rooms in the community centre. They play in the main hall where 'pre-planned' resources are set out for children to access. All areas are clean and well maintained. Early years children line up to be escorted by the

manager to the soft play area and adjoining play room where they also access a selection of 'pre-planned' resources and activities.

Staff provide a variety of interesting and stimulating play opportunities, including 'theme night' activities. The manager and staff hold monthly planning meetings to discuss the activities they propose to offer following specific themes. Staff follow children's interests, asking them what resources they would like set out the following week. This is flexible and children can request different activities in addition to these. All children are included in the activities which are adapted to enable early years children to take part. They confidently explain how they should behave in order to keep themselves and others safe. The manager skilfully encourages conversation as they play, using open ended questioning recalling the topic they are looking at.

Staff have not established links regarding the Early Years Foundation Stage with the teaching staff of the schools attended by the early years children. Therefore, the learning taking place does not complement the learning taking place in school ensuring continuity. Activity plans for adult-led activities are maintained showing the early learning goals and individualised learning. Observations and assessments are completed to help identify children's next steps. Initial settling in and 'all about me' documents help staff establish children's starting points.

Children enjoy themselves and have fun. They relate well to other children and adults, and they are very well behaved. Children enjoy physical activities in the soft play room and outdoor activities in the enclosed play areas attached to the centre. Staff question and challenge children and take part directly in activities. Children benefit from this direct involvement as they join in enthusiastically and are well motivated. They enjoy craft activities creating colourful butterflies and kites. Their independence and self help skills are well promoted, frequently helping themselves to a drink of cool fresh water situated on the table.

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

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

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	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?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
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?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

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

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

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.