

Mum's Little Helpers LLP

— Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY347752
Inspection date 12/08/2008
Inspector Jane Elizabeth Chappell

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Registered person Mum's little helpers LLP

Type of inspection Care

Type of care Out of School care

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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 provider must give a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must give a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Day Care and Childminding (inspection) (England) Regulations 2005 No 2300 Regulations 5 and 6).

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:
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THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

<p>The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.</p>

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Mum's Little Helpers LLP after school club registered in 2007. It is located at St. Mildred's Centre in a residential area of Addiscombe, which is in the London Borough of Croydon. Children have access to two halls and a secure outside area. There are also suitable toilet and kitchen facilities.

A maximum of 70 children under eight may attend the setting at any one time. The club is open each morning from 7:30 until the school day begins, and each evening from 15:00 to 18:00. During the school holidays the club operates from 7:30 to 18:00. The club picks up children from a variety of local primary schools within the Addiscombe and Shirley area. The holiday play scheme is also open to children from the local area.

There are a maximum of 70 children on roll at any one time, attending for a variety of sessions. The facility supports children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

There are seven staff working with the children. Three staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and three are working towards a qualification. The setting receives support and training from the Early Years Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from taking part in a range of physical activities at the club, including a variety of games in the outdoor area, climbing trees and making dens in parks, and playing on the park equipment. This keeps them fit and active and contributes to a healthy lifestyle. Staff make sure children rest as appropriate and drink plenty of water in hot weather.

Children have regular meals and snacks. During the school holidays, children bring in a packed lunch, but all other meals and snacks are provided by the club. Children wash their hands after they use the toilet and before most meals, but staff do not ensure that all children routinely wash their hands before breakfast. This practice does not fully protect children from the risk of cross-contamination.

Children are taken good care of if they have an accident or feel unwell, as most staff are first aid trained. Appropriate records of any accidents and medication given are kept, ensuring that parents are well informed. This supports children's health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment, with ample space and good quality facilities. Children have access to appropriate resources and equipment that are well maintained and conform to safety standards. The club is in the process of obtaining new equipment for the older children. The children have been included in this process to ensure that the club is meeting their individual needs and preferences.

Staff are well deployed and move around in line with where the children are choosing to be. Children and staff discuss and practise fire drills, increasing their knowledge of the procedures to follow in an emergency situation. Hazards are effectively identified and addressed, for instance, areas of the garden that are not used are cordoned off to ensure children do not access them, and risk assessments are conducted of all activities and outings provided.

Children are safeguarded and protected whilst at the club because the manager has an appropriate knowledge of child protection issues and knows how to respond to concerns. She demonstrates a good knowledge of her role with regards to protecting the children in her care, and is familiar with the procedures for reporting concerns. Children are protected from anyone who has not been vetted as they are never left unsupervised.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and happy at the club. Staff make activities fun and children enjoy what they do. Children all join in with the activities provided and also initiate their own games. Staff are sensitive to the children's growing independence, but are on hand should their support be required.

Staff ensure that children enjoy a good mix of activities and outings and their knowledge of the children's needs and preferences is evident. Children are able to move freely between the inside and outdoor areas and staff move with them to ensure supervision. There is a calm, fun atmosphere at the club and all the children interact well together. During school holidays, children attend daily trips within the London area, including trips to a variety of parks and museums. Both parents and children say that they really enjoy this aspect of the club.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, are welcomed into the club and are valued and included. Children are settled in sensitively, and

systems are in place to ensure that staff caring for children are aware of their individual needs. Children benefit from activities and experiences that help them value diversity. During the school holidays, they also have lots of opportunities to explore the wider community.

Behaviour is good throughout the setting. Staff employ consistent strategies, appropriate to the children's age and stage of development, to help them understand right from wrong. For example, positive behaviour is rewarded with children choosing from a variety of certificates which allow them extra privileges, such as an extra ten minutes with a friend in the garden or being the special helper serving the drinks.

Children benefit from the good partnership with parents. Information is available about the club's policies, procedures and activities. Parents are kept up-to-date through information displayed on the notice boards and daily verbal communication. Parents state that they are very happy with the care provided for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The out of school club is effectively managed. The provider and the manager are well organised and staff are clear about their role and responsibilities. As a result, children are happy, safe, and confident within their surroundings. Children are cared for by suitably qualified and experienced staff who have an understanding of child development. All the required records, policies and procedures which contribute to children's health, safety and welfare are in place, and are regularly updated in line with current legislation. Rigorous recruitment procedures are in place; however, there is no system in place to ensure that ongoing staff suitability is monitored.

Sessions are well planned, with a balance of activities with regular rest periods, and children are kept occupied and stimulated throughout the day. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable: this is the first inspection since registration.

Complaints about the childcare provision

Since registration, 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 good hygiene practices are consistently in place regards hand washing
- develop a system for monitoring staff's ongoing suitability.

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 2473)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk