

Playtime

Mayfield School, Warwick Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB4 3HN



Inspection date	27 January 2015
Previous inspection date	5 February 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children have a thoroughly enjoyable time because the club is relaxed, unstructured and friendly. This means children follow their own interests, play independently with their friends, be active or relax, according to their preferences.
- Good two-way partnerships with parents and the host school effectively promotes children's welfare and helps to achieve consistency in their care and learning.
- Children's physical development and their interest in healthy outdoor exercise is supported well. They have continuous use of outdoor play areas and play equipment.
- Staff know the children well and have a secure understanding of their learning needs. As a result, children are supported well in their development and benefit from a broad range of enjoyable activities that reflect their individual interests.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The arrangements for snack time do not effectively promote children's good eating habits.
- There are a lack of images, displays and family books that reflect children's diverse backgrounds and their home languages.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- enhance the organisation of snack time to give children better opportunities to develop appropriate eating habits and promote good hygiene, for example, by encouraging them to be seated when eating
- strengthen children's opportunities to learn about theirs and other diverse backgrounds, languages and lifestyles, for example, by enhancing the range of visual displays, labels and photographs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children and their interactions with staff.
- The inspector spoke with the provider at convenient times during the inspection about his management responsibilities, including staff training, suitability checks and links with the school.
- A range of documentation was examined including children's records, staff qualifications, some policies and procedures, accident records and registers.
- A number of parents were spoken to about the quality of the provision.
- The inspector spoke with staff about their responsibilities and their knowledge of the children.

Inspector

Veronica Sharpe

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff have a good understanding of the learning and development requirements. They know the children well and understand their learning styles. Children are encouraged to share their ideas about activities and new resources. They are fully involved in the planning, which helps to ensure their learning needs are well met. Activities support children's learning in school, for example, there are ample writing materials and a well-stocked book cupboard. Children thoroughly enjoy the planned creative activities and confidently ask staff for additional resources to extend their enjoyment. Some children confidently share their skills and show pride in their achievements. For example, they demonstrate their gymnastic abilities to an appreciative audience of their peers. Children from diverse backgrounds play together well and show respect for each other. However, there is a lack of images, posters and pictures to reflect their differences and enhance their understanding of the wider world.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children are relaxed and happy at the club. They arrive from classrooms eager to start their activities and greet staff enthusiastically. Information gathered from parents and the school when children first start helps to ensure they settle well. Children devise their own rules for good behaviour and staff promote cooperation and kindness through good role modelling. Children are encouraged to share their skills, for example, they put on demonstrations of gymnastics, which promotes their self-esteem. Plentiful toys and resources are well organised so that children play independently. Healthy snacks and drinks are offered to children. However, children are not consistently encouraged to sit down to eat and some wander about. Occasionally, food is dropped on the floor and retrieved by the children, which means good hygiene is not thoroughly maintained.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The manager and staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard children. They are vigilant to ensure children play safely, and know what to do if a child is at risk of abuse or neglect. Close partnerships with the school ensure any concerns are shared to promote children's welfare. Staff make daily checks of the premises and all areas are safe and secure. Children are encouraged to keep themselves safe, for example, they move chairs carefully. The provider has updated Disclosure and Barring Service checks for all staff and has secure recruitment procedures. Staff work effectively as a team and support the children well in their activities. They meet regularly to assess children's needs and plan for their future learning. Essential training is updated and most staff hold a suitable first-aid qualification. Several staff work in the school so there is continuity for children, who see familiar faces around them. Parents and children are asked for their views to identify improvements. The provider has successfully addressed the actions raised at the last inspection. Parents are very positive about the club. They particularly praise the warm and friendly environment.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY280529
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	962769
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	54
Name of provider	Benjamin Michael Thorp
Date of previous inspection	5 February 2014
Telephone number	01223 712127

Playtime was registered under the current provider in 2004 and is privately owned. The club is open from 3.15pm to 6pm, every weekday during term time and from 8.30am to 6pm during school holidays, subject to parental demand. There are currently five members of staff working directly with the children, including the manager. Of these, three hold relevant childcare or playwork qualifications at level 2 and 3.

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