

Little Cherubs

Little Cherubs, Broadstone Hall Primary School, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 5JD



Inspection date

4 February 2015

Previous inspection date

13 June 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
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		Requires improvement	3
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Management has recently commenced the self-evaluation process. However, this does not provide the club with a clear plan for overcoming weaknesses. They have not yet identified areas for further development, in order to continually improve outcomes for children over time.
- Opportunities for children to develop their independence to the utmost are not fully implemented, limiting their progress in this area of development.
- Staff supervision is not yet fully effective in enabling all staff to receive further support and coaching, so that children are cared for by a constantly improving team.

It has the following strengths

- Working in partnership with parents is an important part of the club's ethos. As a result, children's individual needs are quickly identified and appropriately met.
- Children experience a wide range of activities that enable them to make meaningful use of their time at the club. Consequently, they have fun and increase their friendships.
- Staff demonstrate an appropriate understanding of all safeguarding practices. They are aware of the signs, symptoms and possible indicators of abuse.
- Relationships between children and staff are strong. Staff involve children in decision making within the club. Therefore, children are settled and happy.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve self-evaluation practices and identify challenging targets, in order to bring about change and drive improvement forward, resulting in better outcomes for all
- improve opportunities for children to increase their independence, such as helping to prepare tables for snack time, pouring their own drinks and serving their own food
- develop the current staff supervision procedures, providing staff with more opportunities to discuss and identify their coaching and mentoring needs, so that children are cared for by a constantly improving team.

Inspection activities

- The inspector checked staff's suitability and qualifications and discussed issues arising from the club's self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke to both children and staff, and observed play and learning activities within the main environment.
- The inspector took account of the views of a parent and children spoken to on the day.
- The inspector carried out a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector had a tour of the premises.

Inspector

Janet Weston

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Staff have an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding of the learning and development requirements. They recognise their role in supplementing children's learning from school by planning relevant activities that interest them. Staff welcome children on arrival and talk with them about their school day. Staff ask questions about what children would like to do and encourage them to make suggestions. This promotes children's communication and language skills appropriately. Most staff interact with children during play and step in to provide encouragement. However, the quality of teaching is variable as some staff are less confident and do not engage with children or extend their learning and enjoyment as effectively. Therefore, learning experiences do not consistently promote children's ongoing development.

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

Parents provide staff with detailed information about their child's care and dietary requirements. Staff personalise the care they provide for each individual child. As a result, the children settle quickly. Staff are good role models who clearly explain why challenging behaviour is inappropriate. Any unwanted behaviour is calmly dealt with. Children are developing healthy lifestyle habits because they have access to large spaces, inside and outside, to promote exercise. Menus are nutritious and varied. However, staff miss opportunities to extend children's independence further during routines, such as snack time, as children do not pour their own drinks or self-serve their own snacks. The environment is clean, well resourced and equipped to meet the needs of all children. Daily risk assessments are completed, to ensure that hazards are kept to a minimum.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The manager has an appropriate understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. Recruitment and vetting procedures are in place and all staff have had an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. However, supervision sessions for staff do not fully provide staff with opportunities to reflect and improve on their quality of teaching. As a result, learning experiences do not consistently challenge children or promote their imagination and curiosity. Furthermore, self-evaluation has recently commenced and lacks rigour. This means improvement plans are not sharply focused or targeted on key areas requiring improvement. Staff have created a parents' board, which keeps parents informed about activities and events at the club. Parents spoken to during the inspection commented that they are 'very happy' and that they felt the staff were 'amazing'. Staff have a good understanding of how to work with external agencies to support children, if the need arises.

Setting details

Unique reference number	501480
Local authority	Stockport
Inspection number	819326
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	48
Name of provider	Karen Kempster
Date of previous inspection	13 June 2012
Telephone number	0161 432 1916

Little Cherubs was registered in 1998. The club employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The club opens Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions are from 3.15pm until 5.45pm.

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