

Whitecross Kids Club

Church Road, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 5DZ



Inspection date

3 March 2015

Previous inspection date

23 July 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	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		Inadequate	4
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Inadequate	4
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The provider has not ensured that there is a named deputy, who is sufficiently knowledgeable and capable, to take charge in the manager's absence.
- The provider has insufficient understanding of what changes must be notified to Ofsted.
- The safeguarding procedures do not cover the use of social networking to help keep children safe.
- Staff do not provide a varied range of resources outside to make sure that children are motivated to join in outdoor play.
- Self-evaluation is not sufficiently robust to enable management to recognise all required points for development. However, the provider has appropriately addressed issues arising from the previous inspection, demonstrating some capacity to improve.

It has the following strengths

- Staff provide a welcoming environment in which children settle, and enjoy the company of older children. Staff organise the club so that children from different schools get to know each other so they widen their circle of friends.
- Children enjoy being at the club and know the routine so they behave appropriately and play happily alongside or with others.
- Staff exchange useful information with children's parents and school teachers so that there are consistent links to support children's care and well-being.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure that there is a named deputy who is capable and trained, or qualified, to take charge in the manager's absence
- ensure there are clear procedures for the use of social networking in regard to e-safety to protect children's well-being
- develop awareness about procedures for when to notify Ofsted of changes, including any change to the nominated person.

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

- devise and implement robust evaluation methods to identify areas of weakness and plan ways to address these that will improve the provision
- develop the resourcing of outside areas to provide children with more choice of outdoor activities.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- develop an understanding of when to inform Ofsted of changes of circumstance as soon as possible and no later than 14 working days after the change occurs (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- develop an understanding of when to inform Ofsted of changes of circumstance as soon as possible and no later than 14 working days after the change occurs (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas where childcare takes place, including the toys, equipment and resources children use, and observed interaction between the staff and children.
- The inspector observed activities in the club's room and an outside play area.
- The inspector held meetings with the nominated person and manager/playleader and talked with staff, children and parents.
- The inspector checked the evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including children's records, risk assessments, fire practice records and written policies, and discussed safeguarding and hygiene procedures with the manager/playleader.

Inspector
Angela Cole

Inspection findings

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

Children are happy and occupied during their time at the club. Children enjoy the indoor activities and staff often join in their play. Children listen and follow instructions. They look after their belongings and follow rules for games. Staff recognise what children like to do and provide appropriate resources. Children enjoy being imaginative, so staff provide such items as coloured dough and some play kitchen equipment. Staff follow children's ideas and help them achieve their aims. For example, children complete stencilled drawings and talk to staff about their pictures, asking staff to help them to write appropriate words. Children enjoy their chosen play and staff praise their efforts warmly.

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

Care practices in the club are not adequate. Management does not ensure children are kept safe at all times because there are no suitable arrangements if the manager is absent. Staff develop friendly relationships with children, who settle into the club with ease. Children actively seek out support from staff who recognise cues, such as wanting someone to play with, and staff respond appropriately. Children choose from indoor equipment that staff set out and they collect other resources from cupboards that they wish to use. Some children enjoy being energetic outdoors. They play running races and games with a small number of balls. Staff provide other equipment in summer, such as racquets, but in cooler months they provide limited equipment, so not many children have exercise to help maintain their good health. Staff encourage children to wash their hands after being outdoors. Children help themselves to the inviting array of prepared fruits.

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

The provider does not make sure that requirements are met and that the manager understands the full responsibilities of the role. The lack of a suitable deputy adversely affects arrangements for ensuring children's safety if the manager is absent. Ofsted has not been informed of changes to management. There are sound procedures for checking staff's suitability to work with children. These, and supervision meetings for staff's support and any professional development, are carried out by leisure centre management. The club's manager holds regular meetings for staff to begin to reflect on their practice. However, self-evaluation is limited because the provider is not aware of all aspects to improve. Staff are available if parents wish to discuss children's activities and if there are any issues. Parents say they are pleased with the club and that the caring staff know their children well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101811
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	985056
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	2
Name of provider	Forest of Dean District Council
Date of previous inspection	23 July 2012
Telephone number	01594 842 383

Whitecross Kids Club opened in 1999 and registered with Ofsted in 2001. It operates from the leisure centre on the site of the Dean Academy in Lydney. The club opens each weekday during term time from 2.45pm to 5.30pm. During most school holidays, except for Christmas, the club opens from 8.30am to 5.30pm as required. A private bus service is available to collect children after school from three local primary schools. There are six staff working on a rota basis alongside the manager (known as the play leader), and four staff hold relevant qualifications.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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