

Snowball Club

Chapel-en-le-Frith C of E Primary School, Warmbrook Road, Chapel-en-le-Frith,
HIGH PEAK, Derbyshire, SK23 0NL



Inspection date

18 March 2015

Previous inspection date

18 November 2008

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

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

- Risk assessment procedures for outdoor play are not robust enough to help keep children safe.
- Teaching practice is variable. Staff do not always interact with the children well enough to support and challenge their play and learning.
- Snack time is not consistently well organised to meet children's needs and promote their good health.

It has the following strengths

- Staff establish friendly relationships with children, parents and teachers, which helps to support children's emotional well-being.
- Parents say children have 'settled in nicely' and report that their children like attending the club. Parents think staff are 'very caring and approachable'.
- Children particularly enjoy the sports coaching sessions. This promotes their physical fitness and helps them to learn the value of teamwork.
- Policies, procedures and records to support the management of the club are available and appropriately maintained.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the procedures for assessing risks when children play outside, by making sure all gates are secure and children are more closely supervised.

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

- increase opportunities for children to engage in more purposeful play with adults, so that they consistently take part in challenging experiences that meet their needs
- create a more sociable snack-time experience, where staff sit and chat with the children and promote healthy eating.

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

- take all necessary measures to minimise risks to children's safety, particularly during outdoor play (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- take all necessary measures to minimise risks to children's safety, particularly during outdoor play (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the classroom and outdoor play area.
- The inspector talked to staff, children and parents, and held meetings with the manager.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, and sampled a range of other documents.
- The inspector reviewed responses from parent questionnaires and took account of views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Jan Linsdell

Inspection findings

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

Children generally enjoy their time in the club and occupy themselves well. For example, they organise their own chase games outside and they play well together in their pretend doctor's surgery. The classroom is suitably equipped to support children's interests, including sensory activities, such as playing with water and sand. However, teaching practice is inconsistent. This is because staff place too much emphasis on supervising children's free play, rather than purposefully interacting with them. Consequently, children have few opportunities to engage in purposeful play with adults who support and challenge their learning. Staff have good links with childminders and with teachers from the host school. They share valuable information about children's progress and next steps in learning. Relevant information is also gathered from parents about children's needs and preferences. This helps to promote consistency in the children's care and learning.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Staff have worked in the club for many years and this helps to foster positive relationships with children and parents. Staff are caring and sensitive to the needs of younger children. For example, they recognise when children are tired and just want to sit and have a cuddle. Children are motivated to be physically active and they enjoy playing outside. Weekly sporting activities, such as football coaching, make a positive contribution to children's health and well-being. Children are polite, well behaved and play cooperatively with their peers. This helps to support children's learning in school. Staff explain how children are involved in planning healthy menus and preparing their own healthy snacks. However, during the inspection, snack time was not well organised. For example, children crowd around a small table to have a drink and a chocolate biscuit, which does not promote healthy eating. Also, staff do not sit and interact with the children, which limits opportunities for conversation.

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

The manager understands how to meet the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. She makes sure all staff are appropriately vetted and qualified, so that they are suitable for their role. Recommendations from the last inspection have been suitably addressed. Staff supervision sessions, team meetings and discussions with committee members contribute to a robust review of the quality of the club. Self-evaluation and parent questionnaires are used to help bring about improvements. Staff have access to a good range of training to enhance their skills. They are secure in their understanding of child protection procedures and know how to report any concerns about children or staff. Detailed risk assessments are in place to help keep children safe. However, staff are not rigorous enough in checking that outdoor areas are safe before children play outside. As a result, gates are left open, which exposes children to unnecessary risks. Also, children's play is spread across different areas within the school grounds. This can sometimes make it difficult for staff to provide effective supervision, which compromises children's safety.

Setting details

Unique reference number	206237
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	865399
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 11
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	40
Name of provider	Snowball Club Committee
Date of previous inspection	18 November 2008
Telephone number	07890 962529

Snowball Club was registered in 2000. It employs four members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The club opens from Monday to Friday. Sessions are from 7.30am until 9am, and 3.15pm until 5.30pm, during term time. The club also offers holiday care, when required, from 8am until 5.30pm.

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