

Callowell Club

Callowell School, Barrowfield Road Farmhill, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4DG



Inspection date

26 March 2015

Previous inspection date

23 February 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 make good progress in their learning and development from their starting points because they enjoy the interesting range of activities and experiences provided.
- Staff use effective systems to assess how well children are achieving over time. They use this information well to identify any gaps in children's learning and then plan what they need to learn next.
- Staff demonstrate good teaching skills because they successfully engage children in activities that meet their individual needs and interests, and this supports their learning well.
- Key persons establish strong relationships with children to enable them to settle and feel secure. The positive ethos provides good guidance for children to develop independence, positive attitudes and to exhibit good behaviour.
- Leaders develop strong partnership with parents through an open-door approach that ensures excellent information sharing about children's development and welfare.
- Leaders use their qualifications well and carefully evaluate the quality of their provision through discussion with staff and parents, and identify areas for development through a clear improvement plan.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Adult-led activities are not always adequately prepared in order for children to fully understand the purpose of the task and get the most from it.
- Early writing activities are not provided regularly enough for children who prefer to work in the outdoor area.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure there are regular opportunities for children to engage in early writing activities, including in the outdoor area
- ensure appropriate preparation is undertaken for adult-led groups so children are aware of the purpose of the activity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to the staff and children about the activities undertaken.
- The inspector held discussions with parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector viewed a sample of the club's documentation.
- The inspector made a number of observations of activities, including undertaking a joint observation with the manager. The inspector viewed the spaces, toys and equipment for children to use, including those outside.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, which covered methods for checking children's learning and progress, safeguarding training, and processes used for evaluating the quality of provision.

Inspector

Edgar Hastings

Inspection findings

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

Staff know the children's needs and interests well. They plan and provide an interesting and stimulating environment that successfully engages children in learning through play. The environment is welcoming and well resourced both indoors and outside. Children make good progress in their development of communication skills through listening to stories, singing and reciting rhymes and conversing with adults. Staff use questions skilfully to extend children's understanding and to enable them express their own ideas. Staff provide regular opportunities for children to count and this supports their development of mathematical skills well. Staff prepare children well for the move to school.

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

Staff provide a safe learning environment where children are happy. They enjoy learning to play alongside others and to share and to take turns. Good induction arrangements help children to settle well into the daily routines. Staff provide well for children's welfare through caring for each child's individual needs. Children are kept safe because staff have a clear understanding of safeguarding procedures. Staff help children to understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle through promoting healthy eating, and by providing regular opportunities for children to be active. Staff encourage children to take on responsibilities that make a contribution to the day-to-day running of the playgroup. They teach children self-care skills through the daily routines. Staff prepare children well emotionally for the next stage.

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

The manager ensures staff fully understand their roles and responsibilities, implement requirements effectively and provide a safe environment. Staff evaluate planning daily to ensure all children's needs and interests are met and to build on children's successes. The manager places a strong emphasis on a well-trained workforce, and this has a positive effect on the quality of teaching. The manager supports staff through a training programme linked to performance management, and encourages them to reflect upon the effectiveness of their practice. Secure recruitment procedures help appoint suitably qualified and reliable individuals. The manager works closely with the management committee, parents, the school and outside professionals to ensure children's individual needs are met, and they are prepared well for the next stage of their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY265106
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	833254
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	50
Name of provider	Callowell Club Committee
Date of previous inspection	23 February 2012
Telephone number	01453 762962

Callowell Club operates from rooms within Callowell School, which is situated in Stroud. The club registered in November 2003. The Little Learners Playgroup and subsequent development of wrap-around care registered in September 2006. The breakfast and after school club operates from 7.45am until 8.45am and from 3pm until 5.45pm. The playgroup operates from 8.45am until 3pm, Mondays to Fridays during the school term. During the holidays, a play scheme operates from 7.45am until 5.45pm, Mondays to Fridays. In addition, the club operates toddler sessions on a Tuesday and Thursday from 9am until 10.30am. The playgroup is in receipt of funding to provide some free early education to children aged two, three and four years. A team of 17 staff work with the children. Three hold qualified teacher status, and all but two of the other staff hold relevant early years qualifications.

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