

Challengers Alton Playscheme



Alton College, Old Odiham Road, ALTON, Hampshire, GU34 2LX

Inspection date	8 April 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children's complex needs are met exceptionally well by knowledgeable and attentive staff, who are enthusiastic and passionate about their work.
- Children enjoy the freedom to safely explore the rich environment and resources which are selected to interest and encourage their skills. They enjoy a variety of experiences which encourage communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development particularly well.
- Excellent relationships with parents, and a full range of professionals involved in the children's care, help staff to understand the children's needs and encourage them to develop and enjoy their play.
- All aspects of safeguarding are of paramount importance in this play scheme. Every effort is made to safeguard the children but also enable them to safely play and explore.
- The provider has high expectations for all staff and ensures they have the correct training to enable them to understand and skilfully meet the complex needs of the children.
- The leadership and management team, and staff, work exceptionally well together to ensure that the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage are continually met.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the management systems to enable staff to continually use their initiative more independently in their interactions with children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the premises with the play scheme manager.
- The inspector observed the children and staff at play.
- The inspector spoke to a small sample of parents about the provision.
- The inspector observed activities with the play scheme manager.
- The inspector examined documentation and discussed leadership and management with the play scheme manager.

Inspector

Lynne Lewington

Inspection findings

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

Staff demonstrate a tremendous passion and enthusiasm for their roles. They have high expectations for themselves and the children in their care. They work tirelessly to adapt and create an environment where children can play and safely have fun. Staff know the children they work with exceptionally well. The daily briefing keeps staff well informed of any specific needs they must be aware of. Staff plan activities but also follow children's interests, and seize opportunities to extend them. For example, when a child is fascinated by the ball pool the staff member sits quietly alongside and provides a simple commentary to the child's actions, encouraging their language and understanding. Children enjoy the sensory experiences of the play equipment, both indoors and outdoors, and the freedom to move between these two areas.

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

Exceptional planning ensures that staff have the appropriate skills and knowledge to care for the children. Children build relationships with the familiar staff that get to know them well. This promotes continuity of care. Staff recognise the achievements children make and share this important information with parents each day. Although staff are exceptionally alert to dangers, they also recognise that children need to take some carefully managed risks to enable them to develop. For example, children who use oxygen to help with their breathing enjoy planned opportunities to be free of their oxygen bottles for a short time to explore and move more freely. Staff also ensure children wear appropriate safety equipment relevant to their particular needs. Meticulous health and hygiene routines are followed and staff encourage parents to provide healthy foods. The close partnerships between all who are involved with the children help to promote a deep understanding. Consequently, this enables staff to help children adapt to changes in their lives.

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

Rigorous self-evaluation is undertaken using information from parents, staff, the children and professionals who are involved with the children. This leads to continuous development of a high quality service. Leadership and management is strong, staff have regular supervision and training opportunities. The manager is very knowledgeable and exceptionally well organised. She monitors and supports staff well, although on occasion, she 'over directs' staff even though they are interacting extremely well with the children. Specialised training opportunities enable staff to meet the children's needs very effectively. This has a very significant impact on the quality of the provision and staff practice. It means staff are confident and able to safely provide valuable social play opportunities for the children and manage their very complex individual needs exceptionally well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY465932
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	951227
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	11
Name of provider	Disability Challengers
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01483 230930

Challengers Alton Playscheme at Alton College, Alton, Hampshire registered in 2013. It is run by Disability Challengers who run a chain of play and leisure schemes for young disabled people. The playscheme is open during the summer and Easter school holidays, and on Saturdays throughout the year. It is open from 9.30am to 4pm for a full day, or half day sessions between 9.30am and 12.30pm or 1pm to 4pm. Two qualified staff are employed in addition to 13 staff to support one-to-one care when required.

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