

The A-Z Club

Devonshire School, Devonshire Avenue, SUTTON, Surrey, SM2 5JL



Inspection date

16 April 2015

Previous inspection date

3 December 2008

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		Outstanding	1
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 form exceptionally strong, trusting and friendly relationships with each other and staff. Children have a strong sense of belonging to the club, and their behaviour is exemplary.
- Children's understanding of the world is particularly well supported through well-planned play activities and opportunities to engage in science experiments. These provide a terrific complement to their school learning.
- Staff work in very close and effective partnership with the host school teaching staff, the club's committee members, and parents, to support children's individual needs. Parents are well informed about all aspects of the provision.
- Safeguarding procedures, such as for recruiting, vetting and monitoring staff suitability, child protection and completing effective risk assessments, are robust.
- The management team has clear knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and meets them well.
- Children all have an active role in the running of the club. They are exceptionally happy and enjoy spending time in this safe, well-equipped and well-run provision.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently maximise opportunities to enable children to fully develop their play. For example, children's 'hairdressing' play was limited by a lack of resources to reflect real life and to promote understanding of the world.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen activity planning by ensuring that staff consistently enable children's access to high-quality imaginative and creative play. For example, provide children with a wider range of resources to support realistic role play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play, both indoors and outdoors, and involved the manager in the evaluation of this process.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out observations jointly with the manager and held discussions with her and the school headteacher regarding the quality of the provision and staff practice.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including the club's safeguarding procedures, staff suitability records and children's records.

Inspector

Amanda Tyson

Inspection findings

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

Overall, the club is well equipped with good-quality play resources which children are able to select independently, to initiate their choice of play or activity. Staff also plan a varied range of interesting and stimulating activities. These support children's different play interests and are often linked to topics that support their school learning. Children enjoy making electrical circuits by connecting wires and batteries to make bulbs light up, and experimenting with magnets. They plant and grow flowers and vegetables and enjoy visiting the local nature reserve and woodland, where they make dens out of foliage. Some staff are particularly skilled at 'seizing the moment', to enhance children's play, knowledge and understanding. They join in with children's play and engage them in thought-provoking conversations and experiments. For example, they showed children how to use the sunlight and a magnifying glass to produce heat and smoke. Children also had great fun creating bubbling volcanoes and landscapes during the 'Stone Age' topic.

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

Parents have the opportunity to bring children to visit the club in the term before they start. Children are very friendly and warmly welcome new children, which eases the anxiety about starting school and not knowing anyone. Older children teach younger children new skills, such as how to hold and use a guitar, to play bat and ball and computerised games. Children confidently share their views about the club activities at the end of the day, with each other and staff. For example, they explained what they needed to play 'proper hairdressers'. Children are taught basic first-aid skills by qualified trainers. They enjoy taking part in exercise routines before school and a good deal of physical activity outside. They have hearty appetites and enjoy a substantial and healthy breakfast and tea. Children are independent and willingly help keep their club tidy and safe.

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

Managers use challenging criteria to assess themselves against. They fully involve parents and children in these processes, for example, by using questionnaires and discussion groups. This leads to astute improvements, such as introducing science-based activities. Current improvement plans are focused very appropriately on introducing a mentoring and coaching programme to strengthen staff practice and to develop their skills. All recommendations raised at the last inspection have been fully met; for instance, the organisation of teatime is now a strength of the provision. Parents say that children enjoy attending so much that they often do not want to go home. Parents greatly appreciate the high levels of communication. They receive newsletters and have opportunities to meet with children's designated member of staff, to review and plan for their individual needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY331478
Local authority	Sutton
Inspection number	828173
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 8
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	15
Name of provider	Devonshire Primary School After School Club Committee
Date of previous inspection	3 December 2008
Telephone number	0208 6431174

The A-Z Club was registered in 2006. It provides a breakfast club and after school care for children who attend Devonshire Primary School. The club is run by a committee and operates from the infant hall at Devonshire Primary School, in Sutton, Surrey. Children also have the use of the school playground and playing fields. The club operates Monday to Friday, between 8am and 9am, and between 3pm and 6pm, during term time. There are 11 members of staff, including two managers and a deputy. Of these, eight are qualified to level 3 and two to level 2, in either early years or playwork. One member of staff is unqualified.

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.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

