

# The Ark

Mawdesley St. Peters C of E School, Hurst Green, Mawdesley, ORMSKIRK,  
Lancashire, L40 2QT



## Inspection date

7 May 2015

Previous inspection date

22 June 2010

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- The manager and staff are well qualified and experienced. Consequently, they have a secure understanding of how children learn. They use play and planned activities well, to ensure children receive an educational programme that has depth and breadth across the seven areas of learning and, complements learning undertaken at school.
- Children are motivated and eager to learn. They actively explore the indoor and outdoor environments and are supported by dedicated and enthusiastic staff. This promotes children's confidence and self-esteem.
- Children enjoy healthy and nutritionally balanced snacks. They help with tasks, such as preparing food, pouring drinks and clearing away. This supports them to develop their independence and self-help skills.
- Children have many opportunities to engage in physical play and develop their social skills. For example, they take part in a range of team games, circle-time activities and have daily access to a well equipped, large outdoor area.
- The staff have a secure knowledge of safeguarding. They have attended training and use effective risk assessments to minimise hazards inside and outdoors, in order to maintain a safe environment for children.
- Partnerships with parents are good. There are effective systems in place to ensure parents are kept up to date about children's progress and learning. Parents' views are sought, on the quality of service provided at the club and used effectively to make meaningful changes.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently gather information from other settings children attend, about their likes, interests and use this to inform activity planning at the club.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gather more frequently information from other settings that children attend, about their interests and use this to inform and complement activity planning at the club.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the club and observed activities in the hall and outside.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager throughout the inspection and spoke to other staff members.
- The inspector looked at the children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, policies, procedures, risk assessments and the club's self-evaluation.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day.

### Inspector

Donna Birch

## Inspection findings

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

The club has a wide range of resources and activities, suitable for children of all ages and stages of development. During play and activities, staff use effective questioning techniques and give children plenty of time to be able to think and answer. This supports children to develop their communication and thinking skills. Children work well together and express their good creative skills, as they make dens with lengths of materials. At the craft table they use a variety of different media, such as collage, glue, pens and pencils, to make their own pictures and creations. Outdoors, children develop their personal and social skills, as they play team games and are supported by staff to negotiate rules. This also extends children's confidence and self-esteem. The manager and staff work closely with teachers at the host school, to ensure activities provided complement those that take place in school. For example, when playing with construction blocks, staff use number concepts, such as addition and subtraction. This develops children's confidence with these mathematical concepts. However, staff do not always seek regular information about children's interests and learning from other settings they attend. This means staff are not always aware of children's current interests and learning styles to complement these in the club.

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

Children are valued and made to feel welcome by warm and caring staff. Children are physically active and have daily access to a well-resourced indoor and outdoor environment. Children develop their physical skills, as they climb, balance and swing on the outdoor apparatus. Gentle reminders about safe play, from staff, support children to stay safe and learn about risk and challenge. Staff are very good role models for the children. They encourage good manners, sharing and taking turns. Therefore, children behave well, show care and concern for each other and are emotionally prepared for experiences in school and beyond. Staff at the club have attended training, such as first aid and safeguarding. Therefore, they are equipped to deal with any emergencies or child protection issues. Regular fire evacuation practices further contribute to children's safety and well-being.

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

There are good systems in place to evaluate the club and identify relevant strengths and weaknesses. Staff talk to children about what resources and equipment they would like included in the club. They also seek the views of parents through verbal discussions and questionnaires. The manager has addressed actions and recommendations raised at the last inspection and has developed an effective improvement plan. Staff are supported in their role by the manager. Regular supervisions and peer observations, support staff to continually improve the quality of teaching and address any areas of weakness. Staff have attended a variety of courses, to help them support children's changing interests.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY386356
<b>Local authority</b>	Lancashire
<b>Inspection number</b>	873915
<b>Type of provision</b>	Out of school provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 17
<b>Total number of places</b>	24
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	30
<b>Name of provider</b>	The Ark Out of School Club Limited
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	22 June 2010
<b>Telephone number</b>	0177 260 0551

The Ark Out of school club was registered in 2009. It operates from Mawdsley St Peters Church school and is situated in Mawdsley, Ormskirk. The club employs four members of childcare staff. Two of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and two are un-qualified. The before and after school club opens Monday to Friday, term time and sessions, are from 7.45am until 8.45am and 3.30pm to 6pm.

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