

The Downley After School Club



The Downley School, Faulkner Way, Downley, HIGH WYCOMBE, Buckinghamshire, HP13 5AL

Inspection date	18 May 2015
Previous inspection date	26 April 2011

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

- Staff plan a range of activities that complement children's learning at school, and children's creative development is particularly well promoted.
- Staff support children's growing understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Children have daily opportunities to play outdoors and they enjoy helping staff prepare and serve the nutritious snacks.
- The manager encourages children and parents to share their views about the club. She takes note of what they say and considers these when making changes and improvements as required.
- Staff are encouraged and helped to gain childcare qualifications. This helps enhance their understanding of child development and the importance of play for all children.
- Staff ensure they are well equipped to care for any children with complex medical needs. They seek advice and training from other professionals to ensure they can meet their care needs well.
- All staff understand their responsibility to safeguard children. They know what they must do if concerned about a child's welfare.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are not always as involved in children's more energetic play as they are in quieter activities. As a result, on occasions, children do not play as cooperatively at these times.
- Staff are not always vigilant about ensuring children who are playing quietly are not disturbed by noisier children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop how staff support children's more active play so that they are as consistently well supported during this as they are when involved in quieter activities
- organise an area where children can rest or play quietly, and ensure staff remind all children how to use the area appropriately.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents, spoken to on the day.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with staff about their understanding of safeguarding, child protection and first aid.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's records, policies and staff qualifications.

Inspector

Sarah Holley

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy their time at the club and the activities that are on offer. Staff ask the children about what they would like to do and plan accordingly. For example, staff organise a hairdressing role play area at the children's request. They arrange the room so that a group of children can practise their gymnastic skills. Staff are patient and encouraging when teaching children new skills, such as bead design. At these times children take turns and share resources with each other well. However, staff are less involved in children's more energetic play. As a result, children sometimes need reminding to play cooperatively. Staff plan additional outings and activities during the holidays when children can attend all day. Children enjoy trips to a swimming pool and to local parks. Police officers and wildlife experts visit the club. This promotes children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Staff build useful relationships with staff at local schools to promote consistency of care for the children who attend both. The service offered by the club supports children's school-based learning well.

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

Staff provide a welcoming environment. They check for hazards before children arrive and take the necessary steps to ensure the premises are safe. Children enjoy helping with the organisation of the club. They are enthusiastic volunteers to help prepare snacks. They enjoy buttering crackers and preparing fruit. They are keen to tell visitors about the importance of wearing an apron and washing hands before eating. Children's self-esteem is boosted when they are chosen for these responsible tasks. Staff understand that some children may need to rest after a busy day at school. They designate an area of the room for quiet play and reading. However, they are not always consistent in reminding children of the purpose of this area.

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

The manager has a good understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. She encourages staff to undertake training and gain new qualifications, and this has a positive impact on staff's understanding of child development and how to promote learning through play. The manager monitors staff practice and provides staff formal feedback on their performance. Staff reflect on their practice and make changes as needed. For example, staff have changed how they deploy themselves towards the end of each session to meet the needs of those children who want to play outside. Parents feel well informed about their children's time at the club and appreciate the service it provides. The manager is committed to providing a safe and fun environment for children. This helps ensure children continue to enjoy spending time at the club, and promotes positive outcomes for them all.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY419849
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	832601
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 8
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	37
Name of provider	Downley After School Club Committee
Date of previous inspection	26 April 2011
Telephone number	07905689762

Downley After School Club registered in 2010. It is open between 7.45am and 8.45am, and 3.15pm and 6pm, Monday to Friday, during term time. In addition, it is open between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, during school holidays. There are 21 members of staff. Of these, 15 hold relevant childcare qualifications between Level 2 and Level 5.

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