

St. Thomas after School Club



St. Thomas C of E Primary School, Kenyons Lane, Lydiate, LIVERPOOL, L31 0BP

Inspection date

6 July 2015

Previous inspection date

18 November 2010

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 know children very well. They use ongoing communication with the host school and their own observations of children to provide an interesting and exciting programme of activities.
- Children are motivated and engaged in their play, as staff consult with them about what they would like to do.
- Children's behaviour is managed well. Staff use clear and consistent messages which enable children to understand the club rules and how to play alongside each other.
- Staff have close and friendly relationships with children. The key-person system is well embedded, which makes a strong contribution to children's feelings of belonging and their self-confidence.
- Staff work well in partnership with the host school and parents. This makes a strong contribution to the continuity of care and support for children.
- Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues. They demonstrate a good awareness of both internal and external procedures to report any concerns regarding children's welfare.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the most of opportunities for younger children to do things independently.
- The provider has not yet fully embedded the new system for observing and supervising staff on a regular basis.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of opportunities for younger children to develop independence
- embed the new procedures for observing and supervising staff, to enhance the good quality practice and identify targeted training opportunities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor area and jointly evaluated practice with the provider.
- The inspector spoke with the provider at appropriate times during the inspection and met with her to discuss the self-evaluation form.
- The inspector considered the views of parents spoken to during the inspection and those recorded by the club.
- The inspector sampled a range of operational documents including policies, procedures and information records.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of staff's suitability to work with children and their qualifications, including paediatric first-aid.

Inspector

Lauren Grocott

Inspection findings

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

Children and parents are asked to provide meaningful information about children's interests and skills before they start attending the club. This helps staff to get to know them well. Children have access to a variety of resources and remain stimulated and engaged throughout the session. Children have opportunities to practise skills they have been developing at school. They talk to the rest of the group about their news from the weekend. This demonstrates their communication skills and self-confidence. Children show they are developing the dispositions which prepare them well for school. The staff team are well qualified for their roles and experienced. They interact effectively with the children, who respond well as staff join in with their games and encourage them to reflect on previous experiences.

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

Children show that they feel safe and secure at the club. They are self-assured and confident to approach staff to talk or share experiences. Staff respect children as individuals and value their contributions to discussions or play. Children receive very clear messages about the rules of the club. Staff are very good role models and are skilful in managing children's behaviour. Children are reminded of how to keep themselves safe and demonstrate a good understanding of this. Staff offer children a range of healthy choices for their breakfast or afternoon snack. They socialise with children during meals, creating opportunities to enhance their understanding of healthy lifestyle choices. Sometimes, staff do not have high expectations of younger children attending the club, and intervene in problem solving or complete more challenging physical aspects of activities on their behalf. This means that they do not make the most of opportunities to promote younger children's independence. Despite this, children show a good level of understanding of responsibility, as they take responsibility for simple tasks.

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

The provider has a very good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and implements these well. Positive and close relationships with the host school ensure that information sharing is continuous. Parents praise the club highly, reporting on their children's enjoyment and good relationships with staff. Staff keep parents well informed about children's activities and act as a point of contact between the school and parents. Staff, parents and children are invited to contribute to the club's self-evaluation form. The provider considers all feedback when identifying priorities for improvement and self-evaluation is accurate. Staff benefit from regular meetings to discuss ideas for practice and training is offered, where appropriate, to help them develop their existing knowledge. However, the provider has only recently introduced a system for the regular observation and supervision of staff. This means that she does not always reflect on the impact of staff practice in order to identify additional training needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY408388
Local authority	Sefton
Inspection number	850910
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	97
Name of provider	Diane Stott
Date of previous inspection	18 November 2010
Telephone number	01515319955

St. Thomas after School Club was registered in 2010. The club employs four members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The club operates from 7.45am until 8.45am and 3.30pm until 5.30pm from Monday to Friday in term time. The club operates holiday provision each day from 8am until 5.30pm and is closed at Christmas and the end of the summer holidays.

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