

Appleton Thorn Link Club

Appleton Thorn School, Arley Road, Appleton Thorn, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 4RZ



Inspection date

16 July 2015

Previous inspection date

15 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

- The management team clearly understand their responsibility to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They identify areas for improvement using the views of staff, children and parents and are committed to the continuous development of the club.
- Staff are aware of each child's individual medical or dietary needs and meet them very well. Snacks are carefully planned to be nutritious and to complement the school dinner menu so that children's diet is balanced.
- Staff fully involve children in discussions about good behaviour and share their expectations with children and their families. As a result, children learn to manage their own behaviour.
- Close partnership working with parents and the school that children attend strongly contribute to meeting children's needs and securing the support they need.
- Staff interact well with children and form positive relationships with them and their parents. Consequently, children show high levels of confidence and self-esteem. Parents speak very positively about the way staff care about their children and support them to feel emotionally secure as they move to and from home and school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are few practical opportunities planned to deepen children's understanding of healthy lifestyles or to reinforce the good messages about health and hygiene received through discussion.
- Opportunities to make choices about resources and to suggest ideas for future activities are not always clear enough. As a result, some children are less able to show individuality and curiosity and extend their own learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the planning of experiences to widen children's developing knowledge about health and how to live healthy lifestyles
- increase opportunities for children to choose resources and adapt play activities, and extend the ways children can contribute their ideas for future activities to help all children become active learners.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside the club, as well as in the outside play space.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the provider and the club manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the club manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Lynne Naylor

Inspection findings

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

Staff plan and provide a broad range of interesting activities that support children's development in all areas of learning. Some activities are themed using information from the children's teachers. This enables children to successfully build on what they are learning in school. In addition, staff take on board any ideas for activities put forward by children. However, the process for suggesting ideas is not clear enough to ensure all children's views are heard. Children develop good literacy skills through play. They enjoy activities, which effectively promote their early writing skills and their creativity. For example, they run their fingers through a mix of cornflour and water on trays and identify letters they have formed. They use readily available pencils and pens to draw and write.

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

Every day children have opportunities to exercise vigorously outdoors in the fresh air, which is good for their physical development. They demonstrate good coordination as they throw and catch balls, and play football. Children help themselves to water when thirsty. They decide when to have their healthy snacks and staff talk with them about the health benefits of different foods. However, few practical activities are planned to teach children about healthily lifestyles. Children develop a good understanding of risks and how to manage them. They also listen to safety messages from knowledgeable visitors who purposefully teach children about road safety. Children behave well and regularly recap their rules for safety and kind behaviour. Each child is valued and children learn to respect and tolerate each other's differences. Children's awareness of their culture and those of others is raised through discussions and craft activities.

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

At the end of the school day, some staff quickly set up a classroom or the hall, while others collect children. Assisted by some children, staff get out a range of toys, which provide opportunities for development in all areas of learning. Children may ask for different toys, although it is not always made clear what is available. As a result, some children are less able to initiate and extend their own play. The manager and deputy manager from each club meet regularly to share ideas, evaluate their settings and set targets to drive improvement. Since the last inspection, attendance at the club has increased leading to an increase in staffing. Staff's suitability to work with children is checked through robust recruitment and vetting. The induction and ongoing supervision of staff is good. All staff are trained in health and safety, and each staff member also has a personal development target. Staff meet every week to effectively share knowledge gained from their qualifications and ongoing training. Sometimes, they recap policies so they are all clear about safeguarding and consistent in their management of children's behaviour. As a result, all staff are working increasingly well as a team. Parents exchange information with staff daily and are well informed about the club through an informative website.

Setting details

Unique reference number	315260
Local authority	Warrington
Inspection number	868294
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	67
Name of provider	JK Link Clubs Limited
Date of previous inspection	15 November 2010
Telephone number	07889 515335

Appleton Thorn Link Club was registered in 2001 and is one of three clubs managed by JK Link Clubs Limited. It operates from Appleton Thorn School in Warrington. The club employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, three at level 3 and one at level 7. The club opens Monday to Friday from 8am until 9am and from 3pm until 6pm, during term time only.

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